

CHESTER, N. Y.

A
HISTORY

By S. J. LEVY

Gc
974.702
C426l
1164937

M. L.

GENEALOGY COLLECTION



THE SAD FATE OF
A MAN WHO DID NOT
RETURN A BOOK TO
JIMMY JONAS

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1833 01152 7873

S. J. Ruy

CHESTER, N. Y.

A
HISTORY

By
S. J. LEVY

Published by
CHESTER, N. Y., CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1947

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY
50
FORT WAYNE AND DECATUR COUNTY, IND.

Books by S. J. Levy:

BROKEN BRIDGES

THE STORY OF THE ALLIED DENTAL COUNCIL

CHESTER N. Y. A HISTORY

Copyright, 1947, by S. J. Levy

All Rights Reserved

Printed in the U. S. of America

1164937

To

HARRY M. LITTELL,

Energetic President of the Chester, N. Y. Chamber of Commerce,
this book is dedicated

Goodspeed - \$6.00

PREFACE

IT's high time, I think, that a place with as ancient and as honorable a history as the town and village of Chester should have its story written. Chester, of course, is not the only Orange County community that has been so pre-occupied with the business of living and of paving the way into the future that it has neglected the interesting and important story of its past. But no other community in the county has a better story to tell, a history more worthy of remembrance and of preservation within the pages of a book.

A beginning was made years ago with the publication of Frank Durland's brief history of Chester, a pamphlet-length story in which a history-minded citizen set down, for others to read, what he knew and what interested him in the ancient history of his town. The history of Chester, if it was to be adequately told, required the ample dimensions of a book.

Dr. Levy in elaborating and continuing the story of Chester is fortunate in having, as Mr. Durland did not have, community sponsorship of his task. The Chester Chamber of Commerce is to be commended for its initiative in inspiring and promoting the project. It has set an example that similar organizations in communities whose history is still unwritten would do well to follow.

There is an error, widely prevalent among those who have given little thought to the matter, that history is a record of dead facts, and therefore neither interesting nor important. Nothing, of course, could be further from the truth. For the past life of a community lies folded in its living present, whether we see it there or not. Yesterday has shaped today, as today will shape tomorrow, as so is part and parcel of all that we are or do.

It is possible, of course, to live comfortably in the present without consciousness of its origins or of the events and persons that have shaped it through the years. But in our individual lives we consider it of some importance to know when and where we were born, what schools and churches we at-

tended, who our friends were when we were six, or twelve, or eighteen, and the thousand and one other facts of life that make up our personal histories. Indeed, without that knowledge of the past embodied in our awareness of the present we would feel ourselves cut off from the stream of living or aimlessly adrift upon it.

Life is, in fact, a stream and to live it fully we must know it wholly, or as fully as we can—know not only the shifting eddies of the present but its distant springs and upper courses. That is true of our individual lives. It is true of community living also. Community life is widened and enriched by a knowledge of what has been and how it came to be.

Jonas Seely, Bill Rysdyk and the great horse Hambletonian, the "hero of Chester"! William Bull and his big stone houses! John and Abijah Yelverton and their pleasant wayside inn! St. John de Crevecoeur, "the American Farmer," more famous in London and Paris than in Chester or Blooming Grove, but once upon a time not unknown here! In the good black earth of the Chester meadows the celery and the onions will grow just as well as if none of these had ever lived. Those names will put no money in the Chester bank or get credit at Durland's store. But they are a part of the wealth of Chester, of its invisible assets that we call its culture. For man does not live by bread, or by onions, alone and to know what we are and how we came to be is a part of the business and the joy of living. Dr. Levy and the Chester Chamber of Commerce are to be thanked for opening the ledger again and making these resources available.

As a resident of an adjoining town I am, of course, viewing this enterprise from a distance and without detailed or accurate knowledge of the history that Dr. Levy has gathered into the pages of this book. But that he has applied himself strenuously and faithfully to the task of rediscovering and reconstructing Chester's forgotten, or almost forgotten, past is evident from the variety and fullness of the record he presents. He deserves the thanks of his neighbors.

DWIGHT AKERS.

Washingtonville, N. Y.

INTRODUCTION

EVENTS shape organizations as well as men—and when elected president of the Chester Chamber of Commerce it occurred to me that a history of Chester would be a worthwhile and well-needed project. It was necessary to appoint a historian. There was no doubt that Dr. S. J. Levy was the one man who could do the job competently. Following his appointment it took only a few weeks before he was well entrenched in the work.

The Chester Board of Trade was organized on October 1st, 1900, with the following officers: Frank Durland, President; William A. Lawrence, Vice-President; Charles W. Kerner, Secretary; Hiram Tuthill, Treasurer. The Directors were Joseph Board, William Osborne, George R. Vail and George M. Roe. Through the spirit of co-operation and determination the Board of Trade was very helpful in advancing the progress of our town. Among its interests were the incorporation of the Village, the securing of the water supply from Walton Lake, the organization of Walton Hose Company, Chester Cornet Band, Telford streets, electric lights, etc. A very attractive booklet was published entitled "Chester—The Suburb Beautiful," consisting of 32 pages of beautiful scenes and homes as well as a description of the community. Later on the name was changed to Chamber of Commerce which functioned for some time until the Chester Community Club was organized with the same goals in mind. In the fall of 1946 the name was again changed to the Chester Chamber of Commerce. The following officers served during the year of 1947: Harry M. Littell, President; Clement Zeiss, Vice-President; Ernest Cordinier, Secretary; William H. Smith, Treasurer; Dr. S. J. Levy, Historian. Membership at the beginning of the year was 43. At this writing it is 117. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month alternating at the Methodist, Presbyterian and Episcopal Church Halls. A good dinner is served at 7:00 P.M. Prominent speakers, moving pictures, community singing and business sessions attract a good attendance.

The Chamber of Commerce expresses its deepest appreciation to Dr. S. J. Levy for his unflagging efforts and sincere devotion in the preparation of this, the first complete history of Chester ever published.

HARRY M. LITTELL.

June, 1947.

FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE fountains out of which I drew information in the writing of this book were the printed page and the spoken word. Both sources, to my dismay, proved to be demonstrative of the imperfections of the human mind. The recognized histories I have read, and the stories by contemporaries I have listened to, varied in accordance with the temperaments of the writers and speakers. Glaring contradictions that defy reconciliation emerged here and there. What is there left to do for the writer but make compromises? If this frank admission sounds like an apology for my own mistakes, of which I am unaware, but which the reader will likely find, why, so it is. Historians greater than myself are known to have pulled boners. This fact, that I am in good company, is my only consolation, and, I hope, the reader's generosity will prevail in the judgment of this work.

The names, hundreds of them, running through the pages, also gave me cause for anxiety. Questionnaires, mailed to every resident of the town, if answered as requested, would have made the record complete and unassailable. Unfortunately, the replies were far from being adequate, and I was forced to resort to outside sources, the sum total of which, I suspect, is far from being all-inclusive. The reader who will look in vain for his name on the residents' list, or elsewhere, is advised to make a search in his desk for that unanswered card and so trace the blame to its source.

Most of the institutional and organizational information have been submitted in writing by leaders in their respective fields. Technical planning necessitated a rewriting and an abridging of the originals. The writers are absolved from any responsibility for errors.

I am indebted to the following men and women who have by word, deed, or both, rendered their generous assistance in the preparation of the history material: Harry M. Littell, William Smith, Russel Ludlum, Alfred Conklin, Hamlet S. Roe, George Mapes, Sanford Durland, William Conklin,

Charles Casey, Rev. F. J. Allsop, E. D. Chamberlain, Mrs. Ruth Storms, Mrs. Jesse Hadley, Harry Murray, Albert Davis, Morris Cullen, Russell Roe, Mrs. Harlo Fiske, D. M. Barrell, M. R. White, E. M. Rogell, Robert Young, Mrs. Nellie Green and Mildred Helms.

To all of you, many, many thanks.

S. J. LEVY.

Chester, N. Y.

July, 1947.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Samuel Eager—A History of Orange County
E. M. Ruttenber & L. H. Clark—A History of Orange County
Russel Headley—The History of Orange County
Frank Durland—Early Chester and Its Settlement
Frank Durland—Yelverton Inn
Edward Harold Mott—Between the Ocean and the Lakes
Dwight Akers—Outposts of History in Orange County
Rev. Daniel Niles Freeland—Chronicles of Monroe
Robert Houston McCready—A Century's Record
R. P. Conklin—History of the Village of Chester
Hamlet S. Roe—Scrap Book
Chester News, Goshen Repository, Middletown Times Herald

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
<i>Preface—Dwight L. Akers.....</i>	5
<i>Introduction—Harry M. Littell.....</i>	7
<i>Foreword and Acknowledgments.....</i>	9

CHAPTER I

A Brief Review of Orange County—The Patents and Patentees..	13
---	----

CHAPTER II

First Settlers — Christopher Denn — Daniel Cromline — Sarah Wells—William Bull—Sarah and William Build Their Home—The Unsettled Settlers.....	18
---	----

CHAPTER III

John Yelverton and Other Important Settlers—Hector St. John..	29
---	----

CHAPTER IV

The Story of the Inns—Gray Court Inn, Yelverton Inn—119 Taxpayers in 1775—Chester's part in the War of Independence..	34
---	----

CHAPTER V

A Politician Puts Chester on the Map—Boundaries, Physical Features, Contents—The Greycourt Meadows—Drainage—The Uplands—The Railroad that Milk Built—Milk Production and Transportation—Climate, Transportation—Sugar Loaf—Town Supervisors—Town Officers—Village of Chester Officers.....	40
--	----

CHAPTER VI

Chester Village Goes Home Hunting—New Settlers—177 in 1825 —Chester Water Works—Chester Village Incorporated—Chester Fire District—R. P. Conklin vs. Village Board.....	54
---	----

CHAPTER VII

Chester Sports—The Love Between Animal and Man—Hambletonian Breeding—Original Sources of Trotting Blood—Hambletonian 10—Other Sports—Chester High School Yells—Chester Songs	67
--	----

CHAPTER VIII

PAGE

The Chester Free Library—Schools of Chester—The Chester P.T.A.—Chester Grange—Orange Blossom Post 1167—Troop 41 Boy Scouts of America—Girl Scouts of America—Cub Scout Pack—Italian American Club—Chester Cemetery.....	78
---	----

CHAPTER IX

Chester's Participation in World War II—World War II Veterans for the Planned New Memorial—Honor Roll World War I..	93
---	----

CHAPTER X

First Presbyterian Church—St. Columba Church—St. Paul's Episcopal Church—M. E. Church.....	99
--	----

CHAPTER XI

The Chester National Bank—Chester, N. Y. Telephone Co.—Chester Cable Corp.—Fuel Gas Corp.—The Frank J. Murray Abbatoir—Camp LaGuardia.....	103
--	-----

CHAPTER XII

Town of Chester Residents—Chester Professionals.....	110
Bibliography	10
Chronology	118
Index	119

"While we read history we make history."

— G. W. CURTIS

CHAPTER I

A BRIEF REVIEW OF ORANGE COUNTY — THE PATENTS AND PATENTEEES

A Brief Review of Orange County

THIS being the history of Chester, we can do no more than briefly review the history of Orange County, and, briefer still, of Goshen, of which Chester was originally a part.

Orange County was one of the first in the State of New York to have admitted settlements. It was also second to none, as it still is, in scenic beauty and in variety of surface features. It was famed for its highlands, woodlands, rolling uplands, fertile valleys, fresh water lakes, sparkling rivers and streams. It was also one of the earliest Counties in the State, its organization dating back to 1683. Orange derived its name from Prince Orange, later King William III of England.

Orange County's original boundaries included Rockland County. It ran from New York, the northeastern boundaries of New Jersey, along the Hudson River on the east as far as Murderers Creek; from there it continued westward along the Shawangunk Mountains into the deep woods beside the Delaware River in Northern Pennsylvania. In 1801, its boundaries were definitely fixed, as we know them today. Rockland County was cut off, and five towns from Ulster County were added.

Orange County covers an area of close to half a million square miles, and harbors the following townships: Blooming Grove, Cornwall, Chester, Warwick, Monroe, Goshen, Crawford, Deer Park, Tuxedo, Hamptonburgh, Woodbury, Mont-

gomery, Mount Hope, Minisink, New Windsor, Newburgh, Greenville, Wallkill, Wawayanda and Highland. It has three Cities: Newburgh, Middletown and Port Jervis. The County population is over 140,000.

Tradition has it that in 1689 settlers of Dutch extraction began to build their homes in Minisink.

The first Orange County census taken in 1698 recorded a population of 29 men; 31 women; 140 children; and 19 Negro slaves. The number of children had a prophetic significance.

The Patents

The County boundaries were more or less definite, which is more than can be said about its divisions, namely the patents. Their areas were vague and undefined, a situation which gave rise to many misunderstandings and quarrels among the patentees in later years when surveys were made. We shall speak about these disputes in due time. A patent is defined as a grant. There were many of them in Orange County. There was the Evans patent, the southernmost, which was soon annulled. The German patent to the east, taking in the area where Newburgh now stands. The Cheesecock patent, with Monroe on its northern end. The Minisink patent to the north, and the Wawayanda, between the last named two, running as far as New Jersey northward. These five were the most important grants. The Wawayanda took in many present towns, including Chester.

While the County was under English colonial rule, ownership of the patents before the white men arrived was in the hands of the Indians. The English were very liberal in handing out grants—to friends with political pull. But applicants were told to clear title with the Indians first. This being the story of one town in the Wawayanda patent, we shall confine ourselves to this area alone, leaving the other three patents to the peoples whose towns they formed.

The Wawayanda deal was made between twelve white men and an equal number of red men on March 5, 1703. The pronunciation of the names of the sellers is rather tough on the tongue, but when read slowly some places may give us a cue to their etymology. Here they are: Rapingonick,

Wawastawaw, Moghopisek, Comelawaw, Nannawitta, Arivimack, Rumbout, Clause, Chouckhass, Chingapaw, Oshasque-monius and Qulapaw. The names of the buyers, however, have a ring of familiarity. They were: Dr. John Bridges, Henry Ten Eyk, Derick Vandenburg, John Chollwell, Christopher Denn, Lancaster Syms, John Merritt, Daniel Honan, Philip Rokeby, Benjamin Aske, Peter Matthews and Cornelius Christianse.

These men pooled their resources and, the dozen Indians having affixed their X's to the deeds in the presence of witnesses, received payment for their land in "money and goods." There is no mention of the amount of money or the kind of merchandise, although it is recorded that all parties were pleased with the deal, which speaks well for Wawayanda. Over in the Minisink patent, one year later, the pleasure was one-sided. The buyers there made the occasion festive, got the aborigines drunk, and after they were made to sign on the dotted line the wobbly Indians were left without their lands and with throbbing heads. When they realized that the deal had not netted them a single baby rattle they raised Hades. The smart Whites, however, lived to regret their fraud. They had turned a friendly tribe into a band of marauders.

The Wawayanda Indians also had cause for regrets. The purchasers had presented their signed deeds to the Government and obtained their grants on April 29, 1703. When the Sachems heard of it they rebelled. They said that they were not told that they were being sold out lock, stock and barrel. Some of them became troublesome, but as a whole friendly relations between the old and the new Americans were maintained, at least in this part of the County.

The Wawayanda buyers had no reason to doubt the wisdom of their deal. It was a bargain, if ever there was one. The area was immense. It included several of the present Townships in the County. Yet it is questionable whether they really knew what they had bought. They estimated their collective tract of land within 50,000 acres. Some time later, when surveys marked out boundary lines, they discovered they had 150,000 acres. The inference may be drawn that these New York speculators knew nothing or next to

nothing about land or land values; that the purchase price was so small that no matter how cheaply it was resold a substantial profit would be assured. The means of ascertaining land measurements in those days were as primitive as were the natives who applied them. The white man's standard gauge, the rod, meter or acre, was so much gibberish to the Indian. The extent of land area was measured by the distance one would cover by walking between sunrise and sunset, or from this river to that river, or the buyer would be taken up a hill and shown by pointing a finger into the distance where the land began and ended.

The Wawayanda purchasers came, looked the country over from the top of a hill, made a vague estimate of its extent and decided that it was cheap at twice the price. Resales would be easy. Ships were bringing immigrants by the thousands; these Europeans were hungry for land; they needed homes, churches, schools; and some of them had money.

With the deeds in their pockets, the bargain hunters returned to their city offices in a high state of exaltation. They displayed part real, part imaginary drawings of the land, talked it up as a veritable paradise on earth, and were preparing for a buyers' rush. But their enthusiasm somehow failed to radiate beyond the doors of their real estate offices. Prospective buyers came, listened, shook their heads and walked out unimpressed. There were too many wide-open frontiers, with equally promising opportunities, beckoning the bewildered Europeans, and they were all miles away. Travel to all of them was hazardous and costly.

The enthusiasm of the land owners further dampened when they tried to divide the tract into twelve equal parts. Where did each share begin and end? Sending surveyors out into a distant, wild country proved to be costly, and they saw the bargain phase of their purchase narrowing. And when the surveying and the division were finally completed they found themselves in another kind of hot water. Their neighbors were on their necks. The bordering patentees had done their own partitioning and had ideas of their own about boundary lines. We find the owners of the Wawayanda and the Cheesecock patents in a serious, bitter struggle over territory each claimed the other had trespassed.

Years had passed; settlements flourished everywhere; a war had been fought and won; and a nation was born. It was 1785, and the quarrel between the patentees had not abated. Frank Durland writes of court hearings that were held in the barn behind the Yelverton Inn. They lasted from May to October, 1785, during which time two eminent lawyers matched their wits in defense of Wawayanda. They were Alexander Hamilton, first Secretary of the Treasury, and Aaron Burr, Senator. These eminences stayed at the Yelverton Inn throughout that summer. Whether it was due to the wisdom of these two great men as arbitrators, or the exhaustion of the disputants, an agreement was finally reached and a period added to the litigation.

Returning to the early years of travail, the surveying and the division of the Wawayanda patent into equal shares among the patentees did not improve sales prospects. Buyers stayed away in droves. One year passed, then another. Some of them had made the investment on borrowed money—they had to sell or face bankruptcy. The twelve men then began to use their salesmanship on one another, and the changing of shares took a brisk turn. In 1706, four had dropped out and one new man joined the group. His name was Daniel Cromline. He bought the Rokeby and the Ten Eyk shares, which included a good slice of Chester township as well as of Chester Village. But more of this anon.

*"There are pioneer souls that blaze
their paths
Where highways never ran."*

— SAM WALTER FOSS

CHAPTER II

FIRST SETTLERS — CHRISTOPHER DENN — DANIEL CROMLINE
— SARAH WELLS — WILLIAM BULL — SARAH AND WILLIAM
BUILD THEIR HOME — THE UNSETTLED SETTLERS

First Settlers

NINE long idle years had passed. The tract of land that was Wawayanda had been quarrelled over, surveyed, staked, cut and re-cut, sold and re-sold, mostly on paper inside New York real estate offices. In Orange County it still lay naked under a warm, caressing sun, a sea of wild grass and virgin timber, giving life to forest creatures and receiving nothing in return; its silvery lakes, babbling brooks and singing birds emitting musical symphonies for ears which did not hear and eyes which did not see. Rich bounties of nature created by God for man lay in waste in a waste land.

It was in the year 1712 that three determined gentlemen—Christopher Denn, Daniel Cromline and Benjamin Aske—in a spurt of courage, or perhaps by force of necessity, decided to break the deadlock. The only way to convince others of the good of the land was to go out there themselves and prove it. The three self-sacrificial guinea pigs were joined by a fourth—Christian Snedeker. Laborers were hired, supplies and other equipment procured and expeditions were outfitted and sent on their long journeys to the promised land. Within a few days, four places on the Wawayanda patent simultaneously filled the centuries' silent air with the hitherto unheard sounds of steel ax, pick and shovel over unwieldy soil and rock. The surrounding forests echoed the coming of a new era. Civilized man had come to stay.

We are here concerned with that part of the Wawayanda patent that is now Chester, or the close vicinity that should

have become part of Chester, but has, by some unexplainable maneuver, been appropriated by two neighboring towns. We shall therefore deal with Denn and Cromline only, leaving out the parts played by Snedeker, Aske and a third, Johannes Wisner, who made settlements elsewhere on the patent.

The prevalent idea that Christopher Denn and Daniel Cromline were the actual first settlers in this vicinity must be accepted with reservations. They were indeed the agents and financial backers; they even built their homes and lived in them, but their soft hands and white collars stood between them and world fame as the actual first home builders. Christopher Denn let his adopted daughter, Sarah Wells, and a few laborers precede him to the patent and build a wigwam; and Daniel Cromline was content with having his hired laborer, William Bull, reap the honors of being the first to build a stone house, the first of its kind in the entire County. It may be said with impunity that Denn and Cromline earned the credit of being the first settlers by proxy.

A facsimile of the original Cromline tract, dated October 27, 1713, kindly loaned us for inspection by Mr. Hamlet S. Roe, reveals a roughly square piece of land extending over the Greycourt meadows and the surrounding uplands and woodlands, taking in the territory upon which Chester village stands, from Craigville as far as Goshen road, the whole area comprising some 4,000 acres.

Adjoining the Cromline tract were the Denn holdings, running northward into what is now Hamptonburgh. It should be borne in mind that not only were there no town boundaries at that time—there were no towns. Names here used are arbitrary, there being no other means of indicating locations. Even Goshen, the first town to be organized in the Wawayanda, began to settle simultaneously with Chester and did not acquire its name until 1714. From that date on, for about three-quarters of a century, Goshen ruled supreme over many townships in Orange County, including Chester, Warwick, part of Blooming Grove and Hamptonburgh. Whatever the magic yardstick used in later years in the division of the Wawayanda patent into townships, the fact remains that the Cromline-Denn tracts were of one piece, and

the homesteads which William Bull and Sarah Wells made famous are geographically and traditionally Chester's.

Sarah Wells

Sarah Wells is said to have been the first white woman to set foot on this part of Orange County. Samuel Eager, the first Orange County historian, a descendant of Sarah, writes about this remarkable woman at length and with a great deal of feeling. He remembered her in her old age when he was a boy of six. The detailed story he imparts to us is given as first-hand information. We can do no more here than retell it briefly. Quoting Mr. Eager:

"Mr. and Madam Denn were childless, but had in their family a little orphan maid born in New Jersey, opposite Staten Island, whom they adopted as their own . . ."

Nothing is known about her parentage except that both parents died when Sarah was still a child. Mr. Eager drops a suggestion as to her ancestry in a manner that has puzzled geneologists ever since. In his history of Orange County, written in 1846-47, he writes of Sarah as he remembered her at the age of 102, evidently just before her death in 1796. Mr. Eager writes:

"Though half a century has passed away and blotted many deep impressions from our memory, the recollection of that aged parent and mother in Israel will go down with us to the grave . . ."

Having delivered the message to the reader as received, we can proceed with the adventure which challenges the imagination of the most inventive story writer.

Christopher Denn, having outfitted the expedition for a settlement on his share of the Wawayanda, placed it on a sloop sailing up the Hudson for New Windsor. The outfit included: two pack horses with bells on, two milch cows with bells on, two dogs, two Irish Brahms, one spade, two pails, two beds and bedding, two kettles, wood trenchers and bowls, candlesticks and candles, a pair of trammels, a frying pan, plates and saucers, coffee, tea, chocolate, knives and forks, potatoes, sugar, flour, biscuits, ham and other trifles; and ribbons and small knives for the Indians. With the

cargo went carpenters and three Indians, and, placed at the head of the expedition, was the 16-year-old adopted daughter of the Denms, Sarah Wells, a slender, quick, fragile girl with black, deep, penetrating eyes.

They arrived at New Windsor on the evening of the next day, stayed overnight on the boat and disembarked in the early morning. The cargo was loaded on the horses, with Sarah on one of them, amidst bags and pots and pans. The livestock and the carpenters followed behind. Of the three Indians, two led the way, while one kept a watchful eye over the slender girl. The May sun shone brightly and the still, aged forests echoed the ringing of bells and the barking of dogs. They trudged along in the forest over rocks and twigs, across swamps and brooks. Quoting Ruttenber, "The cows, the dogs, the horses, the Indians, the white men and Sarah Wells together made up as unique a procession as ever set forward to settle a province or found a state."

They reached the Otter Kill Creek, from the east, near the present hamlet of Lincolndale, on the evening of the same day, having covered some twenty miles. The land of promise, their destination that is, was just across the creek, the crossing of which in the dark of the night they considered precarious. They unpacked, had a bite to eat and the men stretched on the grass and fell soundly asleep. Sarah, too, made herself snug in the bedding and though dead tired from the day's journey, lay awake, her heart filled with fear and foreboding as she listened to the strange noises of the night and the rustling among the leaves, in deadly fear lest some wild animal pounce upon her and tear her to bits. She would doze off, then her fears would accentuate into a horrid dream and she would wake up screaming. Came dawn and with it the realities of the task ahead. The men were wakened and another busy day was begun.

The baggage was once again packed on the horses' backs, and animals, men and women crossed the stream. They had now reached their final destination on the west side of the river. Shovel, pick and ax swung in the hands of the men as ground was broken, trees felled and trimmed, and by the time the sun called it a day over the western horizon, a wigwam had been built and Sarah was busying herself with

pots and pans over a fire, preparing the night meal for the workers. Then came the big surprise——

On parting in New York, the Denns had told their daughter they would follow her in a few weeks. But for some reasons of their own they had changed their minds and started out to the patent on land routes the next day. They arrived while Sarah was occupied with the cooking. The sudden appearance of the unexpected parents was the last drop in the over-filled cup of the girl's strained emotions, and she fainted. They left her alone until she revived, talked and joked around the spread supper before them about their adventures for the rest of the evening.

William Bull

Another expedition had left New York on the same day. Daniel Cromline had chosen the place for a settlement close to two miles northeast of the present village of Chester, six miles south of the Denns' cabin. He entrusted the job as mason and overseer to his hired, immigrant stone-mason, William Bull.

The story of the Cromline-Bull meeting also contains the fibre out of which adventure yarns are woven. It was fraught with destiny. This land-speculator, Daniel Cromline, who had decided to settle on his share of Wawayanda, was in need of laborers for the project. He was advised to visit the New York piers where ships were discharging hungry Europeans eager for work and bread. On one of the ships about to return to England he came upon a handsome young lad whose intelligent, worried face attracted his attention. He stopped to talk with him. He was further impressed with his straightforward answers. The lad's story was indeed a sad one.

His name was William Bull. He was born in Wolverhampton, England, in 1689, was taken by his parents when still a child to Dublin, Ireland. According to Russel Headley, in "The History of Orange County":

"(In Dublin) he was apprenticed to learn the trade of a mason and stone cutter. When his apprenticeship ended he and a young friend took the contract to build a large arch for a bridge being constructed near Dublin. Tradition says: One Saturday night the work was nearly

done and the arch finished but for the keystone. He begged the men to remain and put it in place, so completing the work, but they refused. On going down to see it on the next morning he found it fallen and his fortunes with it. It had carried with it his all and imprisonment for debt—as far as he knew it might be for life—stared him in the face.”

There was a ship at the dock about to sail for New York. The boy William scraped together a handful of guineas and showed it to the captain. Would that take him to the New World? The captain said it would and took his money. On arrival in New York port, the captain asked for more money. The passenger did not have any and was given one of two alternatives: go back where he came from, or be sold for the balance. Cromline was impressed, cleared the account with the captain and took William with him. They needed each other. Orange County needed them both.

The spot Cromline had decided to settle on was on the edge of an Indian trail, later known as Kings Highway, now road 45, opposite William Conklin's home. Simultaneously the hammer blows of two groups of workers, only six miles apart, heralded the rising from the ground of the first two homesteads in which were to live the first two neighboring families of Christopher Denn and Daniel Cromline.

William Bull built the first stone house for Cromline, completed in 1716, variously called the “Cromline Stone House,” “Great Coat Inn” and “Gray Court Inn.” It stood up for 116 years. William Bull built several other stone houses, some of which still stand today. Among them are the homes of Hamlet S. Roe, a Bull descendant, a couple of hundred feet from the Cromline, built in 1718; General Knox's Headquarters at Vails Gate and his own at Hamptonburgh. His masonry established him as a craftsman of the first water, and it is as much an object of admiration today as it was when it was first built, over two centuries ago.

The neighborly Cromline and Denn families were on visiting terms, and youth being drawn to youth, the visits gave Sarah and William an opportunity to exchange subtle glances. Sarah looked into Bill's eyes; William looked into Sarah's eyes; and love was born.

Long drawn-out courtships in those early busy days were out of the question. Besides, they made no sense. There

were no movies, no dance halls, no petting parties, no Aunt Susie's nor Cousin Mazie's to visit—where could a fellow take his girl? Mr. and Madame Denn, however, frowned upon Sarah's hasty choice. They frankly did not think Bull good enough for their daughter. Sarah's face puckered up in defiance. In the spirit of the liberated woman of today, she put her foot down and said she was old enough to know her own mind and her mind was set on William. The disgruntled parents knew their strong-minded daughter too well to press their objections further

The marriage ceremony which took place in the Denn double-log cabin in 1718 was not without its incidents. The guests had gathered and all was in readiness when it was discovered that there was no minister to perform the ceremony. A magistrate had been pressed into service but the groom, admittedly of the Episcopalian faith, required that the "banns" be publicized three times prior to the marriage ceremony. Where would one publicize? There were no newspapers, no communities and there was no time to travel to find them. The matter was put bluntly before the law and this representative of it turned out to be an ingenious fellow. He executed an extemporaneous device that appeased all parties concerned. Donning a garb appropriate for the occasion, the magistrate, an open prayer book in his hands, walked to the opened front door and proclaimed the banns to the trees in the forest; turned round to the opened back door and repeated the pronouncements to the cattle and the outbuildings; once again to the front door, this time to the brooks, streams and all living things therein. The silence from all quarters having been unanimous, the banns were considered removed and the marriage ceremony proceeded with in accordance with the Law and the Church.

Sarah and William Build Their Home

The first thoughts of the newlyweds now turned round the building of a home. Material was no problem, with plenty of wood in the forests; stone, limestone and water all around. Neither were there labor difficulties. Sarah would gather the stones, as she did in her apron, and William would lay them. As to land, Papa Denn had promised Sarah 100 acres

of his best land as compensation for her splendid work on the expedition. Now that the time had come for the fulfillment of the promise, the dubious parent showed no haste. Weeks passed, then months. The couple became impatient, and Sarah pressed for an explanation. Christopher came forth with it. It was the old story. Could that husband of hers be trusted? Suppose he broke the marriage vows and deserted the poor girl, which, being an "Irishman," he was likely to do? Sarah resented the slur on her man and there was a row. Her husband was as good a man as any, and better than some. Neighbors intervened and Denn thawed. He would let them have 100 acres farther to the east, seemingly worthless land. The couple accepted the offer. Within a short time theirs became the most productive farm in the entire vicinity. "The man who removed the mountain began by carrying away small stones," says a Chinese proverb.

Upon it they built their monumental stone house, completed in 1722, in which they lived to the end of their days. It passed on to their children and grandchildren, a seventh generation descendant living in it today. It survived earthquake, electric storms, Indian raids and wars, a monument to industriousness and skill in the best pioneering tradition.

It will be recalled that the Cromline stone house, the "Gray Court Inn," had been the first structure William Bull built. It stood for 116 years, when it was demolished, in 1832. That this famous structure might not fall into oblivion, the ingenious builder cut into a stone the inscription "D.C. 1716 G.C." (Daniel Cromline, 1716, Gray Court) and built it into the west end of the wall in his own house at Hamptonburgh, where it may be seen today. Truly a stroke of genius.

William Bull named his place Hamptonburgh, after Wolverhampton, England, where he was born.

William Bull died in 1755 at the age of 66. Sarah lived to the ripe age of 102. She was survived by twelve children, seven daughters and five sons, 98 grandchildren, 212 great grandchildren, and 12 great, great grandchildren—a total of 335. According to Samuel Eager, a descendant, the total number of descendants was in the thousands in 1845. The

number today is probably in five figures, scattered throughout many states in the country.

The known descendants have formed an association of which Hamlet S. Roe is the president. Several hundred gather annually in the month of August, on the lawn in front of the Bull stone house, picknicking, drinking water out of the spring their famous ancestors found, and reminiscing. The house, occupied by a Bull, may be seen near the Sarah Wells trail, east of the Hamptonburgh Grange.

The Unsettled Settlers

The intervening years between 1703 when the purchases had been made, and 1712, when the first settlements began, taught the patentees a hard lesson. They learned that money does not grow on trees and on mountain sides; that capital investments alone in uncultivated soil do not take root. Farm lands offer no short cuts to success. If one is to share in their bounties, he must earn them the hard way.

The resale of shares among the original buyers during the first few years indicates a prevalent downheartedness. Some came to look upon their bargain as a white elephant, to get rid of as soon as possible; others were pressed financially. Christopher Denn had bought his shares on a shoe string. According to Eager, he outfitted his expedition on borrowed money, and he hints that Denn's sudden decision to follow Sarah to the patent the next day was prompted by pressure from his creditors. Cromline, who was financially better off, moved to the patent not because of his love for the soil but because of his good business sense. It seemed the only way to make his investment secure. His calculations turned out to be correct.

Neither was the lesson lost on posterity. As we see it now, the *real* first settlers were not the Ten Eycks, the Vandenburgs, the Cholwells, the Rokebys, the Askes', etc. Not even the Denns and the Cromlines, but the laborers they hired, the men with the pick and the shovel and the hammer.

The modest, penniless stone mason, William Bull, and his young, industrious housewife, Sarah Wells, did more in the way of turning a desert into productive, livable country within a few short years than the hundreds of New York and

New England fortune hunters who kept coming and going during the years before and after. The Bulls blazed a trail for millions to follow.

In the vicinity of what we now know to be Chester a stone house and a log cabin rose up from the ground and the entire Wawayanda patent came to life. Civilization in Orange County made its bow, not in 1703, but in 1712.

Sales became brisk from 1714 on, and the new-comers, unlike the fortune hunters of 1703, were of the steadier, sturdier, more practical kind. Things began to shape up as follows:

Christopher Denn sold to Clows and Everett, in 1714, one-sixth of his share. These two able gentlemen had come from Jamaica, Long Island. They were men of vision and sound business sense. Their two great assets were experience and considerable wealth. They bought up many shares throughout the patent and knew how to attract desirable settlers. They began as speculators and ended as settlers and reputable leaders in the communities in which they settled.

Everett and Clows' holdings included the tract upon which Goshen stands. They were obligated under the terms of the deeds to lay out the town, which they did in 1714, apportioning the land into north and south divisions, farms, roads, etc. 200 acres were assigned for a minister, if and when one would be available. The Goshen early settlers included Michael Dunning, Johannes Wisner, Solomon Carpenter, Abraham Finch, Samuel Seeley, John Holly, John Yelverton, William Jackson, Daniel Cool, William Burch and Joseph Allison. Some of these men played important roles in the building up of the Chester community in later years, outstanding among whom was John Yelverton, who will be accounted for in good time.

In 1721 Christopher Denn sold to Robert Brown 310 acres of his land in the Wawayanda, and in the succeeding years he parcelled out farms to William Mapes, Joseph Allison, John Yelverton, Ebenezer Holley, Joseph Sears, John Green, Worley, Vincent Matthews and Sarah Jones who afterward married Thomas Brown. Some of these names will appear in the affairs of Chester.

It will be recalled that Daniel Cromline had bought the original Ten Eyk and Rokeby shares back in 1706. He disposed of much of his holdings to other speculators at a profit. After he made his home on the patent it did not take long before a lively boom became evident. The two busy bees, Everett and Clows, made Cromline an offer for the sixth part of his original holdings and he sold it to them, leaving for himself the close to 4,000 Chester acres spoken of in the first pages of this chapter. He evidently considered this tract too valuable to dispose of. His stone house which he turned into an Inn turned out to be a huge success and he visualized a community settlement around it. History willed otherwise—as we shall see later.

"But these are deeds that should not pass away, and names that must not wither."

— LORD BYRON

CHAPTER III

JOHN YELVERTON AND OTHER IMPORTANT SETTLERS — HECTOR ST. JOHN

John Yelverton

IN 1751, John Beers held title to 120 acres of the original Cromline tract, in the neighborhood of the present Main Street and Durland Corners. On June 16 of that year he staked off $42\frac{3}{4}$ acres and sold the parcel to John Ensign. Four years later, on May 19, 1755, John Yelverton came along, looked at the land, liked it, made Ensign an offer and the sale was made for 97 pounds, 4 shillings (about \$475.). Real estate had indeed gone up in value in this part of Goshen town. A short few years before that much acreage could be bought for a song. But John Yelverton was too clever a prospector to be played for a sucker. He knew what he was doing. He had lived in New Windsor, in Newburgh and in Goshen; had, in fact, a finger in every pie. And when he finally reached this spot on the Orange County map he rubbed his hands and said this is it. His wanderings were over.

The Yelverton family had come from Wales. With John came a brother and a sister, and his children, John, Anthony, Thomas, James and several daughters, number and names of whom are missing from available records. One daughter married a Mr. Carpenter of Goshen; one Mr. Howell of the same town; one Mr. Marvin of Oxford and one a Mr. Carman. John, Jr., had one son, Abijah. This grandson of John, Sr., was a credit to the Yelverton family name. He was in fact the real builder of the community; he donated an acre of land upon which the Presbyterian Church was built, and

organized the first library of which he was the sole librarian. Three sons were born to Abijah, John, Anthony and Abijah. Two sons were born to Thomas, James and William, and a daughter, Elizabeth.

John Yelverton, the immigrant, walked up the hilly side of his newly acquired plot, looked down upon the lay of the land, and, impressed with its beauty, his mind's eye visualized a growing, expanding community. He thought of the lovely town of Chester in old England where he was born, and, associating it in his mind with this magnificent place, gave it the same name. The surrounding woodlands echoed aye. The neighboring homesteaders were fascinated, flattered beyond words. Their settlement had a christening. They were living in Chester, N. Y.

John Yelverton built his renowned Yelverton Inn, completed in 1765. It was for many years a historic outpost on the New York - New Jersey - Hudson thoroughfare. After John's death his grandson, Abijah, took over its management. With the death of Abijah in 1832, ended the career of the Inn. Altered and redecorated, it is now the home of the Sanford Durland family.

John Yelverton was not too lonely. Around him had gathered a conspicuous little group of settlers whose names made history.

Among the early community builders we find Nathaniel Roe, who located a mile and a half south of Yelverton. The land passed on to his son, Nathaniel, Jr., who honorably served in the war of the revolution and earned the title of Captain. Russell Roe now occupies Nathaniel's farm. In his possession is the original grant by King George II, in 1751.

Peter Townsend built his home directly opposite the present Presbyterian Church. His brother, Isaak, lived on the Brook Farm. Another Roe home passed on to C. S. Hunter, then to John Springstead, to Elmer Cooper, to Doctor Dodd. The Board Family occupied it in 1800.

Peter Townsend, while he lived in Chester, owned and operated Sterling Mine where furnace steel was made, as early as 1751, in partnership with one William Noble.

Another early arrival from England was Cornelius Board, who built a forge and bloomery along Sterling Lake, in 1738. Cornelius and his wife, Elizabeth, arrived in 1730, brought forth three sons, James, David and Joseph. James's son served with the Bergen County militia, David was a major and Joseph a captain. They all served in the Continental Army in the War of the American Revolution. The Board descendants are still with us.

Joseph Drake was another early bird with a tract of 200 acres.

In 1742, Elihu Marvin had moved into the Oscar Durland farm. Mr. Marvin in 1778 was Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He married one of the Yelverton daughters.

Daniel Denton lived on a tract of land purchased from John Everett in 1732. Its present occupant is T. F. Lawrence.

Colvill Carpenter was there with his two sons, Daniel and Jesse. The Carpenter family are not strangers here today.

There were the William Seely descendants, on the Cromline line, and the Knapp families whose records are incomplete. There were others whose written histories have been destroyed by fires.

The Durland family had come from Zeider Zee in Holland and landed on Long Island in 1652. Charles Durland came to Chester in 1754 and built his home across the Otter Kill in West Chester. He married Jane Swartwout, of the family of Rulof, farmers on the Cromline tract since 1734. Nine children were born to them, and many grandchildren. From them grew up the great Durland tree with its many branches throughout Orange County, now in the seventh generation. Samuel Durland occupied the present H. B. Green farm.

Thadeus Seely, Sr., lived on the James Seely farm, and Mayor James Holbert on the present Harry L. Green place.

On the Craigsville road Samuel Denton lived on the Jenkins place, and the present E. D. Chamberlain farm had previously been occupied by Herman Fink and Isaac Gillette.

The William Vail homestead was near the Chester Academy. He had four sons, Asa, William, Absalom and Benjamin.

Hector St. John

No history of Chester would be complete without the inclusion of that great personality, Hector St. John, a Chesterite at the time of the Revolution and an International literary and political figure later. Mr. Dwight Akers of Washingtonville has written a fascinating little biography of the man in his "Outposts in Orange County," published in 1937. Briefly: Michel St. Jean de Crevecoeur, French artist, map-maker and traveler, arrived in Orange County in 1769 and settled on the Craigsville-Chester road, opposite "Graycourt Inn," where William Conklin now resides. He became a farmer par excellence, did some landscape gardening around his house which attracted the attention and wonder of the people of the vicinity and far beyond. It was one of the important landmarks in the County. He named it "Pine Hill Farm," but visitors dubbed it the "Paradise of Orange County." He was also a leader in the planning for the clearing and draining of the black dirt area and introduced alfalfa to this country. Hard working man, artist and dreamer that he was, he also had a knack at writing, jotting down on paper bits of his experiences and observations of the country of which he had become a citizen and which he came to love and admire. He threw his French name overboard and adopted the American name of Hector St. John. He lived with his wife, Mehetabel, who bore him three children, Ally, Lewis Phillipe and America-Frances, nicknamed Fanny.

Came the American Revolution and with it heaps of trouble for Hector. He was accused of being a Tory. He denied it, and his actions later proved his loyalty to his adopted country. But the prevailing war hysteria blinded his accusers and charges of disloyalty were drummed up against him. He was dragged through the courts, was made to pay heavy fines and was finally thrown into jail. After four years of persecution he returned to a lost paradise. His Pine Hill Farm was in ruins and his family near starvation.

Friends came to his assistance and took him across the British lines to a vessel bound for France. The ship was sunk and he was taken to New York where he was held on charges of espionage for the Americans. There was no end

to poor Hector's troubles, until one day the sun began to emerge from behind the heavy clouds. Released, he got to London where he placed into the hands of a London publisher the scribbled notes he had packed into his valise at Pine Hill Farm. They were now published under the title "Letters from an American Farmer" and were proclaimed literary masterpieces. Fame and money now came his way. On his release he went to Paris where he was greatly acclaimed. He was now a *persona grata* among the literati, artists and diplomats. He hob-nobbed with royalty. He visited with Benjamin Franklin, then on a diplomatic mission to France, and later with Thomas Jefferson in Paris.

His wife died soon after he had left Chester, and their two small children (he had taken his oldest with him) were left destitute. A Chester family, poor but good-hearted, took the orphans into their home and shared their meager food rations with them. The home on "Pine Hill Farm" had been burned to the ground, some said, by the Claudius Smith gang.

One day a uniformed gentleman came to Chester. He said he was from Boston, that his name was Captain Fellowes and that he had been commissioned by Hector in Paris to look after his family. He took the youngsters with him to Boston where they were lodged and given an education.

When the war was over, in 1783, Crevecoeur (Hector) arrived in a New York port, dressed in silk and satin, as French Council for New York. Here he learned of the death of his wife and the whereabouts of his two youngsters. He went to Boston, took his children with him to Paris and completed their education there. They grew up into splendid maturity. Fanny in particular bloomed forth into a young lady of rare charm and beauty, married Count Otto and became the center of attraction in the salons of many capitols of Europe. Came 1789 and the French Revolution and, with it, heaps of more trouble upon the heads of the St. John family. They were under fire for being aristocrats. However, they survived this upheaval also, and when things settled down they continued on their road upwards.

"Letters from an American Farmer," written in Chester, of Chester, by a Chester resident assumed international, literary and political significance.

*"This life at best is but an Inn
And we the passengers."*

— JAMES HOWELL

CHAPTER IV

THE STORY OF INNS, GRAY COURT INN, YELVERTON INN —
119 TAXPAYERS IN 1775 — CHESTER'S PART IN THE WAR
OF INDEPENDENCE

The Story of the Inns

INNS were very popular in Colonial times. Practically every house that was built on the side, or close to a highway was made into an Inn or Tavern. It served as a hotel, drinking and eating place, town hall, amusement palace, dance hall and trading post, all in one. Even prayer meetings were held there before Churches were built.

Long distance traveling on horseback, in buggies, carriages and stage coaches over rocky, rutted, dirt or cobblestone roads was associated with severe hardships. Men and beasts were in need of rest and food. The Inn was the oasis and business was brisk. The local settlers, too, searched out the nearest Inn as the only form of escape from a monotonous drudgery. They were lonely souls, socially starved and physically famished for a snack or a sip of something stronger than water. They were heavy drinkers in those pioneering days. We have it on authority of Rev. Daniel Niles Freeland of Monroe that almost every home had a still and that even ministers imbibed. Well, here was a place where a fellow could get gay, shake hands with neighbors and strangers, get the latest world news, exchange yarns and be otherwise entertained.

The first Inn in this vicinity was Cromline's "Gray Court Inn", built in 1716. It attracted wide patronage. For a time it looked as if this spot would form the ideal center for a community. Came Yelverton half a century later with

his Inn and pushed the Cromline House into the background. Rumors had been about that the older place was not quite up to respectable standards. Now this new place, it was different, it was more up to date. It catered to celebrities. George Washington stopped there. Famous generals watered their horses there. It gave lodgings to Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. When a delegate to the Continental Congress had to be chosen in 1774, the inhabitants of Goshen and Cornwall convened at the Yelverton Inn to make their choice of Henry Wisner for that office.

Besides, John Yelverton was not the average, run-of-the-mill sort of innkeeper. He had intelligence, vision and civic pride. He not only gave the little community its name, he helped build it, and when age had put a heavy hand on his energies he saw to it that his offspring would carry on where he had left off. His son, John, Jr., carried on, but his spirit was reincarnated in his grandson, Abijah, whose able leadership transformed the old man's dream into reality. He added many tracts of land to his inheritance. The following advertisement in the "Goshen Repository" of July 2, 1793, tells part of the story:

"The subscriber having laid out the farm whereon he lives in Chester in Orange County and State of New York into upwards of Forty convenient Town building lots and meadow lots—the lots contain from a quarter of an acre to an acre and upwards—the whole of which lots he intends to expose for sale at public vendue on Wednesday the 23 of October next, at his dwelling house on the premises.

"It is beautifully situated for a Town as well for traders as for mechanics, being in the heart of a well settled fertile country, about four miles from the Court House in Goshen and seventeen from the landing at New Windsor on Hudson's river.

"The vendue will begin at 9 o'clock A.M. The condition of sale will be made known at the time and place, and good titles given to the purchasers by

1164937 ABIJAH YELVERTON

"Chester, June 20, 1793."

The results of Abijah's efforts are obvious to-day. John Yelverton had been the immigrant adventurer, half practical, half dreamer. Abijah, his grandson, was the all-out, practical American, with both feet on the ground. His grandfather dreamed of a community and named it. Abijah built it.

John, the oldest, died in New Windsor, July 17, 1767, and was buried there. His remains were later exhumed and re-interred in the Chester cemetery. On his tombstone is inscribed: "Here Lyes the Body of John Yelverton Who Departed this Life July 12, 1767. 74 years." Abijah, the virtual Innkeeper, died in 1832. With his death ended the glorious history of what was once the "Yelverton Inn".

119 Tax-Payers in 1775

The first complete official record of inhabitants appeared in the assessment rolls in 1775, Nathaniel Roe, Assessor for the 4th District of Goshen. The boundaries were still uncertain, as the covered territory included East Chester extending to Satterly Town, the neighborhood of Greycourt, West Chester, Somerville, Conglinton in Goshen, as far as Fort Hill.

Thomas Morgan
John King
Abraham Stagg, Jr.
Henry McElroy
Andrew Babcock
Charles McElroy
Solomon Finch
Jacob Bleshar
Isaak Odell
Justus Odell
David Williams
Samuel Conklin
James Babcock
Joseph Patterson
John Armon
Thomas Fitzgerald
Gideon Mace
George Crossen
Peter Brass
John Miller
Andrew Bebow
John Clark
Zephaniah Kalloy
Jacob Swathood
Christopher Trickey
George Davis
Jonathan Archer
Nathan Bailey
Nathan Bailey, Jr.
William Helm
David Mapes
Matthew Dilling
Joseph Mapes
John Kinner, Jr.
John Kinner

Samuel Satterly
Joseph Drake
Oliver Smith
Abijah Yelverton
Peter Townsend
Abel Nobel
William Drake
John McDowell
Isaac Cooley
Benjamin Jackson
Joseph Carpenter, Jr.
Barnabas Horton, Jr.
Barnabas Horton
Birdseye Young
George Thompson
Silas Horton
Jonathan Horton
Phineas Rumsey
John Chandler
Joseph Carpenter
Phineas Dunn
Robert Anderson
Nathanial Knapp
Nathanial Knapp, Jr.
James Hanochs
Francis Duffin
Hope Rhoades
Joseph Holley
Isaac Rhoades
William Vail
Richard Jennings
Thomas Denton
Bowman Holsted
Daniel Hall
Joseph Beckis

David Bailey
Benjamin Jennings
Benjamin Drake
Jeremiah Mullock
Alexander Jackson
Benj. Meeker, Jr.
Mattias Jayne
John Sprinshed
Charles Durland
Joshua Whiteman
Capt. John Jackson
Calvin Carpenter
Bezaliel Seeley
Thomas Beech
Uriah Fuller
James Smith (tailor)
Wm. Knapp
Mich. Jackson (judge)
Henry Jayne (blacksmith)
John Gardner
Jasper Hart
John Feagels
Wm. Kinner
Francis Giloe
John Bradner, Esq.
John Bradner, Jr.
Gerard Rayner
Solomon Tidd
Andrew Cristey
Benj. Sayre
Richard Clark
Nathan. Allison
Abr. Chandler, Jr.
Jacobus Tidd
James Mosler

James Kinner
Joshuah Howell
Samuel Bailey
Ebenezer Holley
James Simpson

Jonas Denton
James Hamilton
John Roe
William Hillington
Ruth Carpenter

Nomiah Carpenter
Capt. Nathaniel Roe
George Thompson, Jr.
Isaac Smith

The total assessed valuation was a little over 370 English pounds, the equivalent of \$1,900., or \$16. per taxpayer. The tax, of course, was a fraction of that sum, enough to make a present property owner's mouth water. Knowing the amounts settlers paid for land many years before 1775, the low evaluation is puzzling. Two explanations suggest themselves. 1: The probable high levy by the Crown on tax collections, which the local authorities, on the verge of war, were trying to evade. 2: A low local administration budget.

The Assessor, Nathaniel Roe, resided one mile and a half south of Chester Village on the farm later owned by his grandson, Jesse Roe, and is today in the hands of Jesse's great-grandson, Russell Roe.

It is of interest to note that the names on the list are predominantly English.

Chester's Part in The War of Independence

The accumulated resentments of the colonies against the unjust taxations of Parliament, in which they were not represented, were rapidly coming to a head. The first Continental Congress met in 1774. The Orange County record of that event reads as follows:

"On the third day of September, 1774, a meeting of the inhabitants of the precincts of Goshen and Cornwall in the County of Orange, Province of New York, were assembled in Chester at the Yelverton Inn, and Henry Wisner, by a majority of votes, was sent to the Continental Congress held in Philadelphia to protest against unjust taxation."

Henry Wisner did not participate in the Congress, as it adjourned in October, not affording Henry sufficient time to wind up his affairs on behalf of the colonies at home, with only a few days left for covering the long journey to Philadelphia. The first Congress, however, accomplished very little, in the vain hope that Parliament would ease its demands on the colonies, so avoiding a bloody war. But when Congress met again in May, 1775, clashes had already taken

place in Boston and the continent was already virtually at war.

On June 8, 1775, Orange County representatives, including one from Chester, met in Goshen, listened to a report on the declaration of war and affixed their signatures to a pledge in support of the Congress. The immediate organization of the Chester Company followed, which was promptly attached to Colonel Allison's Goshen Regiment, and which distinguished itself in many important campaigns. In the years 1776 to 1779 it participated in the engagements at Fort Clinton and Fort Montgomery, and in the fierce battle at Minisink, Benjamin Dunning, Ephram Masten and Gilbert S. Vail lost their lives. John Wood was wounded and taken prisoner by the British.

During these fateful three years the Chester Company was called to arms twelve different times. It spent a total of 292 days in the battlefield.

The officers of the Goshen Regiment included Lieutenant John Wood, Lieutenant James Miller and Ensign Parshall.

Kings Highway was the most important thoroughfare in this part of the State for the marching armies to and from New Windsor and points on the Hudson to points in northern New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with Chester as a convenient mid-way outpost. About three hundred militia wintered on Chester Hill in 1776-1777, where the old school building, now occupied by the Chester Cable Corp., stood.

The following is taken from the public papers of General George Clinton, the order issued by John McKesson, secretary:

"In the Committee of Safety for the State of New York, Fishkill, December 9, 1776, it was resolved — that all the militia of Orange and Ulster Counties be ordered to march, properly armed and accounted, with four days' provisions, to Chester in Orange County, New York, there to receive further orders from General George Clinton for effectually cooperating with Major General Lee and Major General Gates in harassing and distressing the enemy, who have entered the State of New Jersey. The said militia shall be allowed Continental pay and rations and one penny a mile in lieu of rations until they come to place of rendezvous."

The Goshen Regiment was reorganized in February, 1776, under the following roster of officers: Colonel William Allison, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Tusten, Major Moses Hetfield and Adjutant John Wood. The Chester Company remained under the command of John Jackson until the year 1778, when Adjutant John Wood was promoted to the captaincy in his place.

On April, 1777, Colonel Woodhull with his Regiment halted at Chester on his way from New Windsor to New Jersey, camping on the hill while awaiting reenforcements to protect their baggage, before their march further south. During the Minisink encounter Chester was again in the news, as the Captains were ordered to send their men to the town, later to return to Minisink under the command of Captain Woodhull.

Chester offered hospitality to many celebrities, and during the Revolutionary War it was a veritable convention center for high ranking military officials. George Washington was a frequent visitor at the Yelverton Inn on his way from Trenton to the main army on the Hudson, and vice versa. George Washington's expense account, on file in the Capitol contains a Yelverton Inn item dated July 27, 1782.

"Politics is the science of exigencies."

— THEODORE PARKER

CHAPTER V

A POLITICIAN PUTS CHESTER ON THE MAP — BOUNDARIES, PHYSICAL FEATURES, CONTENTS — THE GREYCOURT MEADOWS — DRAINAGE — THE UPLANDS, A DAIRYMAN'S PARADISE — THE RAILROAD THAT MILK BUILT — MILK PRODUCTION AND TRANSPORTATION — CLIMATE, TRANSPORTATION — SUGAR LOAF — TOWN SUPERVISORS — TOWN OFFICERS — VILLAGE OFFICERS

A Politician Puts Chester on the Map

THE settlers of the Town of Chester, still a town in name only, had made steady progress, but for one thing. They were too slow in realizing the importance of formally organizing, with the result that the neighboring towns got the lion's share. Goshen reorganized in 1788; Warwick organized in the same year; Blooming Grove and Monroe followed in 1799. Chester alone remained unorganized, tagging along Mother Goshen's apron strings for another half century. Result? The big squeeze. The boundaries were wide open and the principle of first come, first served, prevailed. When the town finally organized, it got what it could instead of what it should.

On the northeastern angle, the Cromline tract, which was the Chester tract, extended as far as Craigsville. Along came our eastern neighbor, Blooming Grove (in 1799), and appropriated two miles of territory which made more colonial pioneering history than many times its size elsewhere in the State. On it lived Cromline, William Bull, Hector St. John, personalities second to none in the building of a Nation.

On the western end, the disproportionately large town of Warwick extended its squeeze over the greater portion of

Glenmere Lake and the surrounding territory. And so on. Today, a number of Chester descendants of first settlers, as much attached to Chester as were their ancestors, are paying taxes in other towns. Available records fail to disclose any explanation for the delay of the early Chester settlers in organizing their township.

The eventful day, however, came in 1846. Frank Durland records how it happened.

"Before the year 1846 a political condition having arisen in the Board of Supervisors by which they were in need of another Democratic vote in that political body, to satisfy the political ambition of a certain person who was anxious to become supervisor. In order to carry out this well laid plan, a small area was taken from the four present surrounding townships, and the small town of Chester of 20,000 (?) acres was erected."

The politicians of that day did not find it necessary to pass on the name of that "certain person" who, if known, would be entitled to a monument.

Boundaries, Physical Features, Contents

Chester is an interior town in Orange County, situated southeast of the County center. In organizing itself it reached out on all sides to grab off a slice of Goshen, Blooming Grove, Monroe and Warwick, forming an attractive piece of "patchwork". In its form it resembles the shape of a wedge, the head of which is somewhat lopsided. Its sharp edge to the south cuts in between the towns of Monroe and Warwick at Smith's Swamp, Lake Mombasha on the Monroe side, and the Bellvale Mountains on the Warwick side. The higher top of the wedge head, northeast, projects bluntly between Blooming Grove and Goshen, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Craigsville. The inclined part of the head makes its bow between Goshen on the north and Warwick on the south, about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Florida. The area comprises over 16,000 acres, all of it from the original Wawayanda patent.

Orange County is said to be second to none in the State of New York in variety of natural features and resources, providing ideal places for all-purpose, good living. The same is proportionally true of Chester. To use the common vernacular, it has everything.

Robert Watson McCready, Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Chester, in "A Century's Record" of the Church, published in 1898, adequately describes it:

"Chester is preeminently a home center. Its homes are as permanent as any to be found in America. Its environment is rich in all that is conducive to make it a home center. The fertility of its soil, the purity of its air, the beauty of its rolling and rugged landscape, the purity of its water, the great fields of the richest pasture, bordered and mingled with daisies and buttercups, make it one of the most desirable places for a rural home to be found within twenty miles of the 'American Rhine'—the grand Hudson River."

Today, half century later, the town is more beautiful and attractive than ever before. A bird's-eye view of its topography reveals rolling uplands for all purpose vegetation; lowlands of rich alluvium; fertile muckland yielding 2 and 3 crops of truck gardening products a season; woodlands; natural springs and streams; and sizable elevations.

Goose Pond Mountain shades the village on the south. It is wooded and has an elevation of 825 feet above sea level. Less than a mile southwest of it is *Sugar Loaf Mountain*, so named because of its resemblance to an old-fashioned sugar loaf, has an elevation of 1,220 feet and is towering over Sugar Loaf village. Further south stands *Snake Hill*, elevation 980 feet.

Southwest of East Chester stands *Durland Hill*, elevation 850 feet, and a little farther in the same direction is *Pine Hill* with an elevation of 860 feet. The center of Chester village, at Durland Square, measures 485 feet above sea level.

Glenmere Lake, a tributary of Quaker Creek; a body of molten silver, as beautiful as any in the County, is situated on the west side of Chester township. It has an area of about 350 acres, its southern end extending deep into Warwick.

A number of smaller and greater streams zig-zag their way over the land surface throughout the township. There is the *Black Meadow Brook*, with its several tributaries, draining the western part of the town and emptying into the *Otter Kill* at West Chester. The *Otter Kill* is one of the most bewitching streams in the County, babbling its tortuous way through many towns before arriving at its Hud-

son River destination. This stream is teeming with historical importance, and while it is reticent about the things it had seen and the tales it had heard over the centuries, the least we can do is take a sightseeing trip on it and enjoy the landscaping along its banks.

The Otter Kill, starting at West Chester, winds its way in a northeasterly direction into Goshen, cuts through it in an almost straight line into Hamptonburgh, via the southern end, up north into Campbell Hall. Having paid its respects to Western Hamptonburgh, it receives a northern tributary at Campbell Hall, then zig-zags eastward to Burnside where it forms a sizable pond. Well rested there, but not quite willing to settle permanently, it pays a running visit along eastern Hamptonburgh through Lincolndale, where it receives the Cromline Creek coming up from Chester. United, they cross Washingtonville, wiggling their way between the Schumenuk Mountains into Cornwall, picking up more wet company and hence, under the new name of "*Moodna*" to their final destination — the Hudson River and the Atlantic Ocean.

Now let us get acquainted with another Chester native, the *Cromline Creek*, the lord and master over the black-dirt meadows. Walton Creek, coming up from the lake by that name, and Trout Brook, arriving from Warwick, meet at the southern end of Chester town to form Bull's Pond. Out of this Pond emerges Seeley's Creek, running northeastward in the meadows. Just below Chester village it receives a tributary branch of the Otter Kill from the west and merges with the Cromline Creek. This important meadow stream runs along northward into Craigsville and into Blooming Grove just below Lincolndale, where it loses its identity in the Otter Kill, as described above.

The "Greycourt Meadows" or "Black-Dirt Area"

This is an exceedingly fertile tract of land, close to one thousand acres of the original Cromline purchase. It receives the wash from the surrounding uplands, which is arrested by a basin of rock formation below, keeping the surface layers comparatively moist. Turning over the top soil, the shovel brings up a yellow-brownish, fibrous humus,

consisting of organic matter (animal fertilizer), held there, boxed, since time immemorial. Its features suggest that it was once the bottom of a lake. Samuel Eager tells the following illuminating incident:

“ . . . In the town of Warwick, a Mr. Bradner asked permission of the commissioners of highways to change the direction of the highway near his dwelling, by carrying it in a straight course across a meadow for some two hundred yards, thus shortening the road. The request was granted on condition that he would make the new road equally good. . . . Mr. Bradner commenced filling up the new tract, till he had carried some thirty or forty yards into the meadow. One morning when he went to inspect it, lo! It had all disappeared beneath the surface, and some water was standing above the sunken tract . . . ”

Mr. Bradner tried several times with no better results. Yet, in the years that followed, bridges, railroad tracks and roads were spanned across the meadows with excellent results. Once the nature of the land was learned, the remedy became apparent — drainage. As early as the 1770s we find Hector St. John, whose land extended into the meadows, conferring with his neighbors on the problem of making the swampy wasteland productive. We find no evidence of success along these lines, although some results were obtained by raising hay, corn and pasturage. When the Erie Railroad pushed its way through Chester, flax had been the major crop. But the New York market, now brought so near home, demanded onions, and the meadows were there to deliver them. They required a little coaxing, however.

Laborers, brought from New York, were given shovels and ordered to go to work. They dug ditches and outlets into the running brooks, and the black soil gave up its water. Next came the plows, and onion seed, and the *first onion industry* in Orange County was born.*

* Another Chester first is recorded in “A Manual of Home Vegetable Gardening,” by Francis C. Coulter. “Lima beans take their name from the city of Lima, Peru, whence Capt. John Harris of the U. S. Navy carried seed to plant on his farm at Chester, N. Y., in 1824, after which they gained much attention; but beans of the Lima type had been grown in the South before then.”

The workers, some Polish, but most of Irish descent, decided to remain in Chester as owners of this precious land. The meadows were sliced and sold to individuals, and new homes rose out of the ground of a rapidly growing community.

However, at the turn of this century, some changes began to be evident on the meadow lands. The Irish population had lost interest in onion production, as the younger generation preferred the greater opportunities of the big City to the south. In 1905 a man by the name of Sam Deutsch bought a tract of black dirt, and brought with him a group of Italian farm laborers from New York. Among them were: Rosario Ferlito, Rosario Domico, John Cavallaro, Leo Liccodili, John Grego, Dominic Domico and Bruno Frustaci. Like their Irish predecessors, they soon acquired individual title to parcels of the tract and planted, in addition to onions, celery, lettuce, carrots, spinach, etc., leaving the onion monopoly to the rapidly growing Polish population over in the "Drowned Lands" at Durlandville, Florida, Pine Island and Snuff Town. The town of Chester now has an Italian population of over one hundred families.

Drainage

The drainage problem has never been off the agenda of the black dirt farmers. Normal rains are beneficial, but excessive rainfall, as frequently happens in a season, floods the area causing considerable damage. Digging ditches along the farmer's own lot is of little value. The bottlenecks are in the far distances, and removing them can only be done collectively at great cost, greater than all the dirt farmers put together could afford, while the upland farmers oppose any attempts to legislate general taxation. In the 1930s appeals were made to the Federal Government for help. Army engineers were sent from Washington to survey the area. They found half a mile of heavy rock formation in the course of the Cromline Creek near Craigsville, arresting the easy flow of the stream, the cost of deepening of which was estimated at \$250,000. The Department of Agriculture reported favorably on the project, but the appropriation was not forthcoming. In 1940, Mark Laroe, Town Supervisor,

and Richard McCormick, Chester resident and landowner, went to Washington to argue the case for reopening the drainage question. They were told that a war was on, and Washington was too busy with a preparedness program to give any attention to the problems of a few black dirt farmers in Chester, N. Y. A war has been fought and won, and the drainage problem is still as acute today as it ever was.

The town of Chester has about 2,900 acres of black dirt, of which 1,100 are fully developed. An exact present day evaluation of this land is difficult to ascertain. An arbitrary figure would put it at \$275. per acre. Average yield per acre: about 40,000 pounds of onions; close to 5,000 heads of lettuce; carrots, 800 bushels; celery, 1,000 crates; spinach, 600 bushels.

The Uplands — A Dairyman's Paradise

In contrast to his neighbor in the meadows, the upland farmer is lord and master over his own destiny. He has no drainage problem. Heavy rainfall never reaches bottom on his land, and surplus water finds its level down in the valley.

Most of his land is free of rocks and boulders, is rolling, and yields easily to plow and spade. It is well cultivated, and its irregular stretches of upland and lowland lend themselves to a variety of agricultural products. The farmer can, and does, grow anything his heart desires.

Chester is an agricultural and dairy town. The meadow farmer is the agriculturist. The upland farmer the dairyman. The latter is an agriculturist as well, but his farming, of necessity, is restricted to the needs of the source of his livelihood, his cattle.

The demands for milk products are there; the markets are within easy reach; and the business is profitable. And what is more important, he is well equipped to supply the demand. Fertile grazing fields, shady woodlands and sparkling spring streams make his land a cattle paradise. He grows hay, timothy, alfalfa, corn, oats, clover, potatoes, vegetables for himself, and if he is ambitious and has time

to spare, rye, wheat and buckwheat. His horse, mule and ox has long been replaced by the tractor and every description of the latest machinery.

The Railroad that Milk Built

The real spurt in the dairy industry came with the advent of the Erie in 1841. The major product until that time was butter, nationally known as "Goshen Butter" because of its high quality content. It was shipped everywhere, at the standard price of 15 cents a pound. With the opening of the Erie, Thomas Selleck, the first Chester station agent, began to agitate among the farmers to send their milk to New York, via the railroad. The idea sounded preposterous. Who ever heard of shipping milk 50 miles over a jolty road, particularly in warm weather—what would it look like when it got there?

In 1842, Selleck succeeded in persuading a few farsighted farmers to take a chance, and they shipped a few blue churns of milk to the New York market. Among these farmer-gamblers were: Philo Gregory, James Durland, Jonas King and John Bull. The price was set at 2 cents a quart on the cars; the freight charge was 20 cents a hundred pounds. The first combined shipment was 240 quarts. The milk arrived in New York in good condition, and soon Orange County milk acquired equal prominence with "Goshen Butter" as being of high quality content. Lines formed outside the milk depots in New York to buy the white fluid at 4 cents a quart, a real bargain. Swill and adulterated milk sold for six cents.

Other farmers discovered that it paid better to sell milk at 2 cents a quart than butter at 15 cents a pound. During the first year, 1842, milk shipments over the Erie, at Middletown, Goshen, Chester, Oxford, Monroe, New Hampton and Turners, were between 600,000 and 700,000 quarts. The next year they jumped to 4,000,000 quarts. The milk business alone "built five railroads in Orange County, feeders and branches of the Erie, at a cost of \$4,000,000., and returned to the County more than \$50,000,000." (From the History of Erie, by Edward Harold Mott, 1899.)

From the same source we learn that the Chester farmers "*made the first consignment of milk ever shipped on a railroad, and the first that ever entered New York City from a dairy to be offered for sale in public market.*" *

Milk Transportation and Production

Industries, like people, have their ups and downs. With the coming of the gasoline propelled motor the railroad took a back seat. The truck has taken up where the iron horse left off. The Louis Van Rompaye-Palmer Trucking Company, operating in Chester, tells every town's milk shipping story. Louis started in 1915, near Chester depot, with one truck and kept adding one each year. Today he runs a fleet of 28 tractors (power units), 25 trailers (tanks) and employs 45 men. They cover an area of 200 miles. Each tank holds from 316 to 355 cans. The tanks are three-inch cork insulated, permitting of practically no change in temperature.† The milk is gathered and delivered to the New York market within 24 hours. In case you missed it, the daily Van Rompaye milk shipment is 5,375 cans.

The reluctance of certain farmers to make their business known outside their family circle makes it impossible to correctly estimate the milk production in the town. The perfunctory figures which follow are given in the hope that they are close to being correct. The town of Chester has some 125 farms, of which 80 are dairy. The number of cows owned by individual farmers varies from a low of 15 to a high of 150, making an average of 50 cows per owner. Total of cows, 6,500. Milk production equally varies, averaging 15.5 cans daily per producer. Total, 1,240 cans daily. The market price of milk as of May, 1947, at .09 per quart gives the Chester farmers a daily income of \$4,464., or the monthly sum of \$133,920.

Occupying in the town's farm production a position of great importance is the substantial fruit crop of which quality apples and peaches are the predominant products. While they are a side line with most upland farmers, some

* Italics not in the original.

† The temperature change does not exceed 2 degrees.

are fruit producers exclusively. The Chester fruits are on the top of the list of wholesale fruit buyers, and their trucks fill the roads from September until late in the winter.

Next of importance in quantity production is the town's poultry business. Poultry raisers are as secretive as their dairymen neighbors, but from the limited information gathered we find some big producers, raising some 6,000 to 8,000 layers, supplying the markets with 8,000 to 10,000 dozens of eggs a month. The majority, however, raise from 100 to 1,000 hens or broilers. Notable among the large poultry and egg producers in Chester are The Orange Poultry Farm on Road 45, west of Chester Village and The Van Duzer Poultry Farm in Sugar Loaf.

Climate and Transportation

The geographical position of Chester township favors it with an all year round moderate, healthful climate. It is shielded against severe winter winds by the Highlands to the east, the Shawangunk mountain chain to the north and by its own sizable elevations. It is also assured of a well balanced precipitation. Rains are intermittent, rarely excessive. The average winter temperature in any one year is rarely below 30; the July average is 70. Gentle breezes in the hot summer months are the rule rather than the exception. The spring and autumn seasons are exceptionally beautiful; warm, dry days, and cool, invigorating nights. The weatherman's predictions of "cloudy" or "partly cloudy" are almost always indicative of clear, sunny skies in this part of the State.

Transportation facilities in the town compare with the best in the County. Two railroads, the Erie main line and the Lehigh and Hudson operate in Chester, and concrete motor roads, east, west, north and south afford easy communication with all parts of State and Nation. The Short Line Bus services the town, and crossing it are roads 17, 6 and 45. Local, hard-surfaced roads in the town, connecting with the main highways, add up to 37 miles.

Sugar Loaf

Sugar Loaf is a small community, one of the oldest in Orange County, in the town of Chester, southwest of it, on the Chester-Warwick road. It lies peacefully between two picturesque elevations, Pine Hill on the northern side and the imposing, historic landmark, Sugar Loaf Mountain on the east. N. P. Willis, American poet, saw Sugar Loaf Mountain from the Chester Hills and described it as a "crouching lion ready to spring upon its prey."

Sugar Loaf's inhabitants swear that theirs is the most beautiful spot in the State, and visitors as well as passing tourists agree. Nature has been generous to Sugar Loaf in setting it against a background of rare landscape beauty and charm. It is a valley of contended, peaceful settlers, at peace with the world and with themselves.

If Sugar Loaf history lacks drama and exciting events, as some are inclined to think, it is not because it has not the necessary human material, but that its people have thrown in their lot with Chester. As a matter of fact, Sugar Loaf's representation in the affairs of the town on the Town and County Boards is proportionally high. Lincoln Hunter and Earl Predmore are the Town Assessors and Mark Laroe, Town Supervisor, and Lucien Myers is constable.

The early records disclose that Hugh Dobbin lived near Sugar Loaf Mountain in 1738. Mr. Perry lived near the pond that bore his name, later changed to Wickham Pond. Among the early settlers in these tranquil surroundings we find the names of Nathaniel Knapp, Henry Wisner, Horace Ketchum, Squire James Halluck, Jesse H. Knapp, Vincent Wood and John Holbert.

The Knapp family had come from Connecticut and settled on three different farms.

The James Demerest family had come from Bergen County, New Jersey, and settled on the ridge near Sugar Loaf on a five hundred acre farm. The Nicholas Demerest family of Chester were its descendants.*

In the 1775 assessment rolls, recorded elsewhere in this book, appear the names of John Bigger, David Rumsey,

* James Demerest has just completed a term of forty-three years as Clerk of the Village of Chester.

Samuel Wickham, Jacobus Bertholf and Barnabas Horton.

John King owned a two hundred acre farm in 1784, in the neighborhood of Cornelius Board and George Davis. Thomas Fitzgerald lived close to the Warwick town line. Later arrivals were: Joseph Cooper, Crinis Laroe, David Dyer, Lewis Rhodes, Jesse Wood, John D. Conklin, John Bertholf, Silas Rose, David W. Stevens, Charles Fitzgerald, Samuel Holbert and Elisha Stevens.

There was a Committee of Safety during the Revolutionary War, members of which included: Jacobus and Gillion Bertholf, David Rumsey, Captain Henry Wisner, Jacob, John and Josiah Eagles.

Caleb Knapp is identified with service in the American Revolution, H. C. Baker with service in the Civil War, and Jesse H. Knapp was an officer in the war with England in 1812.

An incident in the struggle with the French and Indians in 1757, is on record left by Hugh Dobbin, a Sugar Loaf pioneer, Mr. Dobbin having pastured one hundred and fifteen horses in the Company of John Wisner.

Tradition has it that Claudius Smith, the infamous Tory-bandit, during the Revolutionary years, paid his infrequent, unwelcome visits to this hamlet, the terrain in the hills affording convenient hiding places. On the side of Sugar Loaf Mountain was said to be an eminence upon which the profile of a man with broad shoulders, narrow neck and large head with a hat on, called the "Old Giant," and a fissure in the rock called "Giant's Cellar," as "proof" of the presence there of Claudius Smith, the uninvited guest.

In the year 1902 we find in Sugar Loaf the following inhabitants:

On the east side of the street:

Mrs. Mary Van Duzer
David Seely
Geo. Van Duzer store
A. Roy, bake shop
Sugar Loaf Hotel,
S. D. Labar, Prop.
Asa Dolson

H. E. Rose
Ann Knapp
Store
Frank A. Turfler
Chas. Eckert
Wm. Laroe
T. W. Banker

On the west side of the street:

The Knapp Estate
 Frank A. Turfler
 J. A. Milburn
 Mrs. M. Vreeland
 Kath. Hunter
 Methodist Ep. Church
 M. S. Knapp

Sarah Knapp
 M. E. Parsonage
 Rachel Dolson
 Ellen Connors
 Frank Vance
 J. S. Connors
 Ralph Wood

On the outskirts:

Sam'l Holbert
 S. L. Conklin
 Walter Doubllass
 Rob't French
 The Grange
 Coe Holbert
 F. Hendershot
 J. Hallock
 Levi Geer
 Alfred B. Roe
 Ruth Banker
 J. B. & J. G. Laroe

Nelson Bertholf
 Mary Van Eyck
 Wm. Haley
 Jack Dates
 Miles Stevens
 S. Holbert
 Wm. Martin
 J. W. Hoyt
 Mrs. J. Sheehan
 D. Jackson

And others

TOWN SUPERVISORS — 1845-1947

James Gray	1845	Nathaniel Roe	1876
Jesse Wood	1846	D. Howell Roe	1877
Jesse Holbert	1847	Joseph Board	1878-1880
Robert Stewart	1848	John M. Knapp	1881
Hezekiah H. Moffat	1849-1850	Ezra T. Jackson	1882
John T. Johnson	1851	Joseph Board	1883-1884
S. M. Kniffin	1852	Samuel Hadden	1885-1888
Charles B. Howell	1852-1856	Nicholas Demerest	1889-1892
Daniel D. Hallock	1857	G. W. Fredericks	1893-1903
Charles B. Howell	1858-1859	N. Demerest	1904-1905
Francis W. Dunning	1860	George W. Fredericks	1906-1907
James B. Stevens	1861-1866	W. F. Durland	1908-1911
Joseph Durland	1867-1868	George W. Ball	1912-1929
John H. Vail	1869-1874	Hudson B. Green	1930-1935
Samuel Hadden	1875	Mark Laroe	1936-1947

TOWN OF CHESTER — OFFICERS

Mark K. Laroe.....	Supervisor
Nellie M. Green.....	Clerk
Albert W. Davis } George Hawkins } Herman Gratz } Frank S. Green }	Justices of the Peace
W. L. Hunter } Earle Predmore } Henry M. Roe }	Assessors
Peter Baker.....	Superintendent
Arthur Decker.....	Collector
Lucien Myers } Joseph Scandura } Harold G. Ringen }	Constables
Elizabeth Bieling } Charles Carman }	School Directors
Catherine Schank.....	Welfare Officer
Dr. W. W. Davis.....	Public Health Officer
Marion McDonel, R.N.....	Public Health Nurse
Assessed Valuation, \$3,270,685	

VILLAGE OF CHESTER — OFFICERS

Russel Carpenter.....	Mayor
Charles Casey.....	Acting Mayor
Charles Casey } Andrew J. Palmer } Edw. J. Green } Jobst A. Bieling }	Trustees
Louis Van Rompay.....	Superintendent of Streets
George Mapes.....	Clerk
Dr. W. W. Davis.....	Health Officer
Fred H. Vollmer.....	Treasurer
Frank S. Green.....	Police Justice
Albert Davis.....	Acting Police Justice
Harold Ringen.....	Chief of Police

*"A little house well fill'd, a little land
well till'd, and little wife well will'd
are great riches."*

— JOHN RAY

CHAPTER VI

CHESTER VILLAGE GOES HOME HUNTING, NEW SETTLERS —
177 IN 1825 — CHESTER WATER WORKS — CHESTER VILLAGE
INCORPORATED — CHESTER FIRE DISTRICT — R. P. CONKLIN
VS. VILLAGE BOARD

Chester Village Goes Home Hunting, New Settlers

A MAN by name of John Yelverton had bought a small plot in 1751, visualized a prospective community and named it. The name stuck, but the imaginary principality that soon began to assume the form of reality could not make up its mind where it was or ought to be. Simultaneously with the few settlers who huddled around Yelverton (at the present Durland Square) a lively movement began to develop away from it, northwestward, on Academy Avenue, from the turn of the road at Frank Murray's to the Otter Kill Creek, as far as T. F. Lawrence's farm. Sugar Loaf, to the south, showed great promise as a permanent town center.

West Chester. The inhabitants called the place West Chester and the settlement there also had the ear marks of a permanent community center. The water power of the Otter Kill accommodated a saw mill and a grist mill. The street lined up on each side with a country store, a hotel, a blacksmith shop, a tannery and a school. In 1794, the first Chester Post Office made its home opposite Frank S. Murray's, with Joseph Wickham as the first Postmaster. Private homes sprang up. We know now that the permanence of a community center there was a dream. West Chester today is only a name and a memory.

East Chester. East Chester is a misnomer. South would be more correct because that is where it is. It came to life, perhaps with less pomp than its western neighbor, more than a century ago, when the Warwick Valley, or L. & H., railroad was to come through with a passenger and freight station. Homes were built, there was a blacksmith shop, a wagon builder, two big stores, the William Conklin feed and hay and the Walter Conklin hardware and farm machinery establishments. The second Presbyterian Church had been built on the site of the present cemetery in 1829, "based on expectation that the village would grow in that direction. . . ." The two Conklin stores are still there and so is the railroad station, but the village's search of a home did not end with East Chester. The railroad stations at Greycourt and Chester cast a spell over prospective settlers, and over to the east they went.

Greycourt. The name must not be confused with the historic "Gray Court Inn" Cromline had built in 1716, which was demolished in 1832. There are various theories as to the origin of that name. One is that it was called Gray Coat because of the gray color that covered the vegetation around the place. Another, that the Gray Coat was symbolical of a coat of arms for which Cromline, as Frenchman, had a sentimental attachment. It is not known when it was changed to Gray Court, but when it was, it was said, according to Eager, that Court had been held there in the famous Wawayanda-Cheesecock patent case, in which Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr participated. This was later denied by Frank Durland whose quotes from the official records establish the Court hearings in the "barn of the Yelverton Inn."

The present name was arbitrarily selected by the Erie management. Having built the railroad station there they wondered what to name it. They looked across the meadows where the old Gray Court Inn used to be, and decided that it was as good a name as any. Putting the two words together and changing one letter they got "Greycourt".

Since the building of the railroad until the early part of this century when the automobile and truck appeared on the roads Greycourt was an important railroad junction.

The Newburgh branch of the Erie, the L. & H., Warwick Valley line met the main line of the Erie where the exchange of passengers took place. That part of Chester seethed with activities, and for many years challenged the other parts of the town as an important, permanent business center. There was the Greycourt House, run by John Proctor; the Railroad Hotel, run by John J. Diffily; a general store; and a Post Office with Edward G. Littell as Postmaster. Estates close to the tracks included those of Edward G. Littell, George W. Sanford, Joseph Welch, Thad. S. Durland, Michael Mead, James Riley and others. Today the Greycourt station stands deserted. Passengers ride in automobiles and freight is shipped by truck. A few residential homes still stand, but the business buildings close to the depot have been quite neglected, and the once prosperous place now has a ghostly appearance.

Salem. This was another little hamlet on the present Greycourt road. The Protestant Methodist Church had its home there, and close to it stood a schoolhouse. They are no longer there. Lonely farmhouses with attached garages, white silhouettes against the black dirt background now line the road.

Business Section. With the completion of the Chester terminal of the Erie Railroad in 1841-42 came the end of the community's wanderings in quest for a permanent business center. New streets were opened. Main Street, beginning at the railroad depot, running westward, then joining old Main Street at the Corporation Building, southward across Durland Square ended at East Chester, a mile away. The old original Yelverton community is now designated as uptown, and the new business block close to the railroad station as downtown.

The atmosphere had long been echoing the heave-ho of laboring men hoisting piles, ties, sills over the meadows and the sound of hammer blows filled the air. Then came September 23, 1841, a banner day in Chester history. Schools closed, stores and shops were deserted. Men, women, children, farmers with their families from near and far; all converged on Chester depot. The level stretch of ground along the tracks could not hold the crowds. The young and

the more ambitious adults climbed up the embankments on each side of the tracks. The occasion? The first Erie passenger train made its scheduled stop at Chester. The excitement knew no bounds when the steel monster in a cloud of smoke, accompanied by a clanking of wheels, ringing of bells, emitting deafening blasts of white steam, hissing, spitting, chortling, wormed its way over the grade, halting to a stop, the last before its journey's end at Goshen. People yelled, clapped and whistled. Some youngsters were so scared that they ran for their lives. Horses and cattle stampeded. The skeptics who pooh-poohed everything had their day. When they saw the locomotive go they said it would never stop. When it stopped, that it would never start. When it did both, they predicted it would do no one any good. The cattle would be in danger of being killed; it would kill the horse trade; the coachmen would lose their jobs. Besides, who would ride on them blasted rickety things anyway? Suppose one drops a sack of potatoes on the tracks and turns the whole thing over? As a matter of fact people shied away from those horseless carriages for a long time. As a matter of record it took a whole year for a few daring Chester farmers to trust it with their milk, for better or worse.

The few Chester farmers who chanced their milk and some of the property owners were the optimists. They foresaw a big future for the railroad and for the community it served. They blazed a trail upon which others followed. The newly opened street near the depot became a veritable bee-hive of activity. Building after building, frame, stone, brick, emerged on each side of the new street, like mushrooms after a rain. Stores, shops, hotels, a bank, a Post Office, an opera house were opening up. Prosperity had come to Chester.

Before we are introduced to the newcomers in the business section, however, let us get acquainted with some of the settlers from 1800 to 1875. They are given in alphabetical order:

Baily, C. N., 1845, Mason and Builder
Beach, Wm. F., 1843, Farmer
Board, Joseph, 1842, Merchant
Bull, H., 1838, Farmer
Bull, Ira, 1809, Farmer

Chamberlain, R. W., 1872, Farmer
Clark, Matthew, 1843, Farmer
Conklin, B. R., 1808, Feed & Coal
Cullen, Bernard, 1854, Farmer
Davis, C. B., 1812, Farmer

Davis, S. M., 1830, Dairyman
 Davis, W. M., 1818, Farmer
 Demerest, Nicholas, 1844, Farmer
 Durland, Edwin, 1825, Farmer
 Durland, Thadius, 1836, Farmer
 Duryea, J., 1823, Boots and Shoes
 Fitzgerald, Chas., 1801, Farmer
 Green, Wm. R., 1812, Farmer
 House, C. D., 1828, Boarding House
 Johnson, J. T., 1843, Cashier
 Knapp, John M., 1836, Farmer
 Laroe, J. H., 1833, Farmer
 Lawrence, W. A., 1841, Cheese Mfg.
 Mapes, Geo. H., 1837, Farmer
 Masten, Geo. W., 1833, Farmer
 Milburn, R., 1814, Farmer-Dairy

Ramsey, D. B., 1841, Farmer
 Roe, D. Howell, 1828, Coal, Feed,
 Grain
 Roe, James, 1838, Farmer
 Roe, Jesse, 1806, Farmer
 Roe, John W., 1824, Farmer
 Seely, E., 1836, Miller
 Smith, A. L., 1818, Farmer
 Tuthill, J. B., 1849, Farmer
 Vail, J. H., 1820, Supervisor
 Wirting, Hermann, 1871, Harness
 Maker
 Weir, H. C., 1834, Farmer
 Wood, C. B., 1849, Farmer
 Wood, J. D., 1817, Farmer
 Wood, J. G., 1812, Farmer

(List incomplete)

One Hundred and Seventy-seven in 1825

In the year 1825 Chester community counted one hundred and seventy-seven inhabitants, according to George S. Banker, born in 1818, a long time resident of Chester. This man had a very remarkable memory. Frank Durland obtained information from him in 1891-1892, details of which are not recorded anywhere else. We record some of them here:

Daniel Denton was located on the W. A. Lawrence place in West Chester.

James Roe was a laborer living below plaster mill in West Chester.

Jeremia Cook had a blacksmith shop.

Michael Denton lived on the D. R. Feagle Farm.

James Seely occupied grandfather Thad. Seely's farm.

Major Holbert lived where C. H. Green now resides, in 1825.

Dr. Townsend Seely was located opposite the Academy. Edmond Seely followed him, then Seth Satterly.

Isaak Townsend lived on the C. B. Wood place.

William Townsend's home was opposite the Presbyterian Church.

W. N. Wood's place was occupied first by Peter Townsend, then by Jno. Springstead; Elmer Cooper. Ownership passed to Dr. Dodd who later sold it to Aunty Board.

Aaron Cox lived in Colfax's place.

James Murray resided on the cemetery plot in East Chester.

Stephen Cooper had his home at H. W. Woods.

David Grossett Drake's home was below Demerest's; the old Satterly house stood beyond the Demerest on the hill, was occupied by Joseph Lamoreaux, then by William Halsey. Julius Mapes purchased part of the Satterly acres.

Jno. Boulton purchased Isaak Gillet's place, later the E. D. Chamberlain home on the Craigsville Road.

Birdseye Young lived on the Jno. Bernart farm.

Albert Seely Roe occupied the R. W. Chamberlain farm.

William Roe was on the H. S. Roe place.

Samuel Denton lived on the D. A. Conklin farm.

Hez. Moffatt was on the J. W. Helme farm.

Joseph Durland lived on the S. S. Durland farm.

Isaak Banker lived on the Goshen road, Webb's place.

The C. E. Johnson farm was previously owned by Sheriff Strong.

William H. Lawrence began making Neufchatel and cream cheese in the cellar of Joseph Durland's store in West Chester.

Nathaniel Roe lived in Florida, having deeded his Chester farm to his son, Captain Nathaniel Roe.

The Travis family lived in the old Lockwood House, near East Chester.

The Jackson who married a Yelverton woman occupied a house where the Episcopal Church stands.

The first Meeting House of the Presbyterian Church in 1798 stood directly back of Dr. Carpenter's house (The Chester Inn). The second building, built in 1829, stood in the center of the present Chester cemetery.

Ezra Hazard, who owned the H. W. Wood place, kept it as a hotel in East Chester. He also built a store and blacksmith shop. The store was run by Bailey Houser.

The Townsends operated Sterling Mines and delivered cannon shot and shells to the government, sixty tons per month, contracted in 1816. John Springstead, who held considerable property in Chester and who was Townsend's bondsman, later took over the contract.

The Sanford Durland store was built in 1842, originally two stores, operated by Hulse and Thompson and Anthony Ackerly. Hulse sold to Jno. Yelverton. One store became the Yelverton and Thompson, the other, Hulse and Moore. In 1850 J. J. Board obtained an interest, and later T. J. Pierson. Until 1859 the store was known as Board, Thompson and Pierson, when Joseph Durland entered as a partner.

Let us now get acquainted with the people in the new business section, from the Erie depot westward. Some names need no introduction, others are new. (Year 1900.)

Samuel Wilkin, blacksmith
 Mrs. E. Masten, grocer
 G. W. Fredericks, milk agent for the Erie
 Bodles Opera House
 E. G. Masten
 Jos. Board, feed, building material
 C. W. Kerner, shoe store
 C. J. Juliand, meat market
 Wm. McGrath, hotel
 B. Cullen
 John P. Bull
 J. B. Tuthill, grocer
 Thompson, drug store
 C. F. Iseman, baker
 J. T. Thompson, plumber
 Geo. H. Brooks, carriage maker
 Masterson Bros., dry goods, groceries
 Chester National Bank
 Reed Estate, sash blinds
 The American House
 Howland House, C. G. Baldwin, proprietor
 Guy Miller, "Greycourt Stock Farm"

Residents On or Near Main Street

Hinchliffe Bros.
 W. B. King
 The Bodles
 A. Wright, Samuel Hadden, C. A. Thompson, Mrs. V. A. Thompson,
 N. W. Helme, Charles W. Kerner, Suz. B. King, T. H. Bryan, Mrs.
 Dutchey, Ed. Graham, Alice Conkling, Herman Gratz, Alfred Conklin,
 R. P. Conklin

(List incomplete)

Old Chester (uptown) had also taken a spurt. In 1902 we find on both sides of Main Street, beginning with the Episcopal Church, Geo. M. Roe, F. L. Conklin, R. H. Marvin, Mrs. W. A. Lawrence, The Presbyterian Church, Fred Vollmer, Sanford Durland (original Yelverton Inn), Durland's Store, Jackson Store, E. F. Kalina, N. Demerest, J. Smith, blacksmith shop, J. S. Murray, Fred Vollmer, Washington Hotel, Carpenter Estate, Mrs. J. S. Roe, Mrs. B. Dubois, Theo Miller, Jos. Board, Mrs. Odell. Jesse Dubois, C. A. Roe, Corn. Edmondson, Durland and Son, A. Redner. Ina Ryan, D. Bullmer, Wells, Smith Carpenter, C. Peterson, C. A. Miller, C. S. Burton, N. Demerest, H. Craig, Miss Moses, Cornelia Edmondson, Jno. Redner, J. Board.

On Academy Street: G. S. Banker, C. F. Dunning, W. A. Vail est., J. A. Cornelius, D. W. Miller, J. S. Roe, Chester Elgin Butter factory at East Chester.

Chester Water Works

It is no mere boast that Chester has the clearest, healthiest and tastiest water of many towns in the vicinity over many miles. It did not just happen, to be sure. It took leadership with vision to bring it about, and the inhabitants of Chester have ever been grateful for a job well done.

One good deed deserves another, and it was the water problem that turned the minds of the people on another problem, that of village incorporation. Although in the year 1891 the village was pretty well established the people had not given a thought to the formality of officially incorporating until the water problem came up for solution. This is how it happened:

In the year mentioned a few public spirited citizens subscribed to a fund for the purpose of surveying and determining whether the excellent water of Walton Lake could not be induced to make a short detour down the Chester way and let the thirsty people have a drink on the house. Joseph Board and George M. Roe were the intermediaries. Their report was that the water was indeed what it was claimed to be, and that Walton Lake in Monroe was neighborly and

willing. It would give us all the water we wanted, providing we met the cost of transportation, which was estimated at \$53,000.

It would not have been difficult to hand the project over to a private company, in fact such proposition was under discussion, but private companies are not in business for love. The water would be rationed to every user on a substantial profit basis. Some asked why could we not make ourselves the beneficiaries of the profits by pooling our resources cooperatively? It was truly an inspiration. Legal council was sought and obtained. If the village wished to go in business, it was incumbent upon it to first incorporate.

Chester Village Incorporated

The village of Chester was incorporated June 23, 1892, counting a population of 1,400 heads. A meeting was called and the Walton water proposition was put up to the voters. 125 voted yes; 13 said no. The ayes had it. The first caucus was held on July 12, 1892 and a slate of officers was placed in nomination. Eight days later elections took place and the entire slate was elected.

President: W. A. Lawrence

Trustees: Joseph Durland, George M. Roe, Thad S. Durland.

The Village Board was organized on the same date, naming Joseph Board as Village Clerk.

That formality gotten over with, a board of water commissioners was organized on August 15, 1892. W. A. Lawrence, Joseph Durland, George M. Roe and T. S. Durland were made the commissioners, with Joseph Board as clerk. About one year later, October 17, 1893, to be exact, the Walton Lake water was spurting merrily out of every Chester kitchen faucet. An ancient stream holding within its depths the traditions of the centuries had opened a branch office in Chester.

A closer acquaintance with this source of water is here in order. Walton Lake, a picturesque sheet of spring-fed, sparkling water, is situated in the southwestern part of Monroe, at the Chester borderline, covering an area of 127

acres with a storage capacity of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet, each foot of water yielding some 40,000,000 gallons. Its elevation is 250 feet above Chester, exerting a pressure of 80 to 90 pounds.

To facilitate its trip to Chester required water mains, 8,197 feet of 12 inch pipe; 6,978 feet of 19 inch pipe; 14,820 feet of 8 inch pipe; 5,748 feet of 6 inch pipe and 6,312 feet of 4 inch pipe. With the acquisition of the water works the Walton Hose Company organized.

Chester Fire District

Prior to 1931, the Walton Hose fire apparatus was owned by the village and was operated within a limited area. Hudson Green, Supervisor of the town of Chester and the supervisors of Blooming Grove and Goshen proposed the establishment of a fire district, formally organized by the Orange County Board of Supervisors under the provisions of Article Three of the County Law. A Board of Fire Commissioners was elected: William S. Van Duzer, Arthur Montanya and Charles F. Johnson, to serve for three years. Donald M. Barrell was elected secretary-treasurer, and W. S. Van Duzer served as chairman of the Board. The Fire District contracted with the Village for fire protection at a price of \$750 a year, and broadened its functions to include much of the Chester township and parts of Blooming Grove and Goshen. The evaluation in 1933 was 2,234,120. The tax rate was 40¢ per thousand, netting the District \$893.65.

In 1934 a new law required the election of a Board of five commissioners. William R. Conklin was elected to serve five years; Clarence Board, four years; William H. LaRue, three years; D. M. Barrell, two years; and Isaac Lewis, one year. Charles N. Winter was made treasurer.

During the years 1939-1940, it became apparent that the increase in the population outside the village limits required a reorganization that would permit it to broaden its activities in a wider area. The dissolution of the old District and the establishment of a new District required new legislation, which was obtained with the assistance of Honorable Seth Cole. Public hearings were held, and the change approved by some 98 per cent. of the property owners.

Under the new make up the Town and Village Boards met in joint session in 1944, and appointed a Board consisting of Clarence L. Board, D. M. Barrell, W. R. Conklin, W. H. LaRue, Charles F. Johnson, Harry M. Littell and Frank C. Helme. Equal fire protection was now made possible throughout the township, including parts of Blooming Grove and Goshen. This new legislation was considered quite an achievement, as it was the only arrangement of its kind in the State.

A powerful piece of equipment, a trailer pumper, capable of throwing a thousand gallons of water a minute on a sixty pound hydrant pressure, sent by the office of Civilian Defense during the war, was purchased for the sum of \$500, and added to the regular equipment. Negotiations are now in progress for the purchase of a new fire truck, the old one being antedated. On June 4, 1946, a special election voted in favor of purchasing the truck and all the necessary equipment for the sum of \$10,500, the sum to be financed through the sale of \$1,000 bonds through the years 1948-1957.

As part of long range planning, a lot has been procured adjoining the Corporation Building for the erection of a Fire District home to house its continuously expanding activities. On April 22, 1947, the Village Board voted in favor of transferring the property to the Fire District.

The growth and expansion of the Fire District has been truly phenomenal. In 1932 the valuation of property in the district it covered was \$2,234,120. In 1947 it covers an area valued at \$4,000,000.

R. P. Conklin vs. Village Board

A twenty-year controversy raged in the village that was reminiscent of the Wawayanda-Cheesecock dispute of early settlement days. It was over street lines, curbs, old and new maps, deeds that clashed and tempers that rose beyond the limits of cold reason.

Restcom P. Conklin had bought the old bank building on the hill, in 1899, deeded by the bank. Conklin's property was to begin at a point measured from the Masterson building (where Hughes store is now) over the paved road that

was Main Street, and a few feet beyond the sidewalk on the other side. The buyer made a search and discovered that the bank's deed differed from the old Townsend bank deed. According to the old document, the property extended over the sidewalk onto the road. His "suspicions" were aroused, and upon further investigation, thought that he had found the nigger in the woodpile. The Masterson and adjoining buildings had been constructed several feet beyond their legal front limits. In order to cover up their aggression, Conklin argued, they disregarded the old deed, and made up a new deed cutting his frontage off to compensate for their own overextension. He yelled "fraud" and proceeded to put up a fence in front of his lot, way into the sidewalk. The Village Board threw it down, and the legal battle, or as he called it, "the twenty-year war," began.

The property owners lined up behind the Board, testifying against him in the courts, with the result that verdicts were rendered against him. Conklin then began publishing a series of pamphlets which he titled, "History of The Village of Chester." On the front pages were appeals to the people of Chester: "Question to the People . . . Do You Want the Map and Deeds of Isaac T. Townsend or Masterson's Store and No Streets?", and, "Your Title is Gone!" In 1920, thirteen of these pamphlets had been issued at his own expense. The contents of one varied little from the other. On the inside pages ran venomous denunciations of the Village Board "in service of the bosses" who were the real "villains" and "conspirators" behind the scene. The County Clerk's Office was "a cesspool of inequity," and the judges who rendered the decisions a bunch of "grafters."

It is not the object of this writing to render a decision in favor of either side of the controversy. Conklin is dead and so are most of his opponents. Opinions gathered among contemporaries who remember the incident may be considered disinterested and unbiased. Their opinions lend themselves to a fair analysis of the situation.

Mr. Conklin had a right to his claim, but he was wrong in making a fetish out of it. True the owners on the other side had transgressed, but the buildings were there. There was no building on Conklin's frontage. The Village Board was

forced to take sides with the many against the one; they certainly could not be expected to let the owners on both sides have their way, which would have resulted in reducing the main business street to an alley. A compromise by way of a monetary settlement with the aggrieved party would have been the best way out, had the party been agreeable to it. But Conklin said no. He was in a fighting mood.

Disputes are not uncommon occurrences. That is what the courts are for. Two disputants go to court because each is sure he is in the right. The judge and jury decide in favor of one. The loser abides by the verdict, but he never really accepts it. Like an injured person, he has his wound bandaged and in time forgets it. It is an obligation he owes to himself and to civilized society. This is the normal way. Mr. Conklin's was the hard way. He refused to forget it. As if his life depended on it, he made his own life miserable, and the lives of his neighbors and friends uncomfortable.

All agree that Mr. Restcom Conklin was a very remarkable man; he had ability, intelligence and worldly goods, but he was a bit too egocentric to submit to failure. The thought of "they can't do that to me" had entered into his blood. It made him a prisoner for the rest of his days. He could talk of nothing, think of nothing but the wrong inflicted upon him. He had many friends and sympathizers; he estranged them by his persistent telling and retelling of the same story for the millionth time. Their patience had given out.

Restcom Conklin died in 1931, at the age of 84, a lonely, embittered man, a victim of what the psychologists would call, his own mind imprisonment. The prevalent opinion prevails that he had no enemies, that even those who opposed him could not suppress an inner admiration for his spunk.

*"In play there are two pleasures for
your choosing —*

*The one is winning and the other
losing."*

— BYRON

CHAPTER VII

CHESTER SPORTS — THE LOVE BETWEEN ANIMAL AND MAN —
HAMBLETONIAN BREEDING — ORIGINAL SOURCES OF TROTTING
BLOOD — HAMBLETONIAN 10 — OTHER SPORTS — CHESTER
HIGH SCHOOL YELLS — CHESTER SONGS

Chester Sports — The Love Between Animal and Man

"THE amusement of our early years," writes Frank Durland, "were made by the home people. . . . Those were the days of fine running horses." During the years 1830-1840 the principal races were run from East Chester to the foot of the hill, Nanowit Park, on route 17. People from miles around lined each side of the "track," and bets were laid. When the races were over the jolly crowd retired to the Hazard Hotel for a drink and a chat. Among the well known sires were the Kentucky Whip and Saltrum.

Such were the humble beginnings of horse sportsmanship in Chester—a local affair that carried the seeds of future fame and fortune. Mr. W. Sanford Durland covers the Hambletonian adventures following this writing. It is worth reading and rereading, as it contains all the elements of a typically American success story.

Mr. William M. Rysdyk was born on a farm on the Chester Florida road. In his youth he was apprenticed as a farm hand in the hope that some day he would own his own land. But his mind was not on plowing, sowing and milking. Passing on the road to and from Florida were some fine, spirited horses, and his heart went out to them. He thought about them by day and dreamed of them at night. Now if he could

only own one . . . feel his silky coat, caress his fine neck, perhaps even ride him. But one might as well dream of marrying a King's daughter. Those horses he saw and desired were of noble lineage, descendants of the great Imp. Messenger. Horsemen alone will understand the meaning of that name . . .

Then one day, Rysdyk, already a mature man, but still dreaming horses, heard that a man by name of Jonas Seely, who bought back a mare he had sold to Charles Kent, wanted to dispose of the mare with her newly born colt. His heart sank when he heard the price—\$125.00. Was that man Seely asking too much? Rysdyk did not know. And he did not care. All he knew was that he wanted the horse as he never wanted anything in his whole life. History is silent on the technique the man used in persuading friends to lend him the money, but success was his—the cash changed hands and Rysdyk led his acquisition home, walking on air.

Home in his stable Rysdyk took the colt to his very heart. He cared for him with a tenderness that could only be matched with a parent's care for his only child. Yet it would be an exaggeration to say that his happiness was complete—there was the debt to be paid. He had cause for worry. What if his "darlings" were taken away from him? These were thoughts difficult to bear. Would his creditors see this splendid colt as he saw him—a growing stallion that had in him all the elements of greatness? His confidence in the animal that he would not let him down could not be shaken. Time, time, a little more time, was all he asked for.

The mare and foal came to Rysdyk in 1849. Three years later he thought the time had come for a debut, and he took the colt to Union Course, Long Island, where, harnessed to a sulkey, he ran him a mile in 2:48½—the first and only race Hambletonian ever ran. Destiny willed that fame be his as the "Great progenitor of trotters."

Man and animal returned to Chester in a blaze of glory. Hambletonian, age four, whose ancestry dated back to Abdallah and Imp. Messenger, began his career as "progenitor" in earnest. In one year he served one hundred and one mares, netting his owner some two thousand dollars.

The fee of \$25 per rose to \$500. A Virginian offered \$10,000 for the horse. It was declined.

In 1865 Rysdyk was comfortably situated on a \$22,000 farm he had purchased from Charles Seely. Hambletonian had paid for it in three months.

The Rysdyk-Hambletonian relationship had its roots in a deep and devoted love. They understood each other perfectly. It was give and take with man pocketing most of the taking. Curious visitors were required to pay for everything short of admission fees for a glance at the animal.

Now for Sanford Durland's story.

Hambletonian's Breeding

(Submitted by Sanford Durland)

He was by Abdallah, and Abdallah was by Mambrino, son of Messenger; the dam of Abdallah being the mare Amazonia. The maternal ancestry of Hambletonian was bred and owned by the Seely family for three generations prior to his birth; his dam was by the Imported Bellfounder; his second dam by Hambletonian son of Imported Messenger; and his third dam called Silvertail, has been generally reported to have been by the Imported Messenger, although on information, entitled to credit; that she was by a son of Imported Messenger, owned by a member of the Seely family, and I believe, a brother of Mr. Jonas Seely, Sr., who bred Silvertail.

I also insert a part of a letter written years ago by a well-known compiler of the Trotting Register, as follows:

In the summer of 1807, Mr. John Seely of Sugar Loaf, Town of Chester, Orange County, New York, was in New York with a drove of cattle. He was riding an eight year old mare, by old Messenger; the mare had white hairs in her tail, hence he called her Silvertail.

His son, Jonas, a lad of nine or ten years, was along helping to drive the cattle and see the City; and having disposed of his drove, he was exceedingly anxious to get home, but did not like to leave the lad, so he took up behind him on old Silvertail and galloped home that day, fifty-five miles; the date of the circumstance was so fixed in the boy's mind, by a remarkable eclipse of the sun that day. The old mare frequently carried Mr. Seely alone to Albany—one hundred miles in one day.

Mr. Seely bred this mare to the first Hambletonian, the inbred son of Imported Messenger, which produced a brown

filly rather hard to manage. One day she got one eye knocked out, hence they called her One-eye.

The mare, One-eye, was bred to Imported Bellfounder, and the get was a handsome dark bay mare, that showed a fine step as a trotter, and as that way of going was then becoming fashionable, she was sold to a New Yorker for a good price. She eventually passed into the hands of Mr. Charles Kent, and was Queen of the road for a number of years.

Meantime, Mr. Seely, Sr., has died, and the present Mr. Seely, the lad of 1807, succeeded to the name, and the estate. On certain occasion when in New York, he saw the Charles Kent mare as she was then called. She had been badly used and was on a fish wagon, one hip knocked down and dilapidated generally; knowing the wonderful merit of the family he bought her again for a trifle and took her home to breed from; she produced several foal; and in 1849 she brought a nice bay colt by old Abdallah, and that colt was Rysdyk's Hambletonian.

These facts came from the lips of Mr. Jonas Seely himself, and there was no more reliable gentleman in the State in which he lived.

Original Sources of Trotting Blood

The most valuable animal ever brought to our shores, as well as one of the most remarkable the world had ever produced, was the great horse Imported Messenger.

Imported Messenger, by Mambrino, a bay horse, was foaled in 1780, ran until he was eleven years old, was bred by John Pratt of Newmarket, England, and was owned during his racing career by one Mr. Bullock.

Imported into this country by a Mr. Bengel, arriving at Philadelphia in 1788, when he was eight years old; he spent the remainder of his life—twenty years in the State of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York and died on the 28th day of January, 1808, at the place of Mr. Townsend Cocks on Long Island.

As stated above he was a bay, that became lighter and fleck bitten with age, and was fifteen hands three inches high.

Hambletonian 10

The history of the American trotter extends back to Colonial times, if ever there were authentic records kept, they have been lost. At present only local tradition remains of early performances. It is certain that running horses were imported from England as early as the year 1625 and bred in both Virginia and the Carolinas.

In this section trotting races took place as early as the year 1806 on the racing courses on Long Island.

The most important source of trotting blood in America was from the imported gray stallions Messenger and Bell-founder, from whose blood the foundation of the American trotter was established. It was through these two sires that the strong line of trotting began in our own section of New York State.

The development of the trotting horse began about ninety years ago, in and about Orange County, in the Village of Chester, and so well did they succeed, that in a few years Chester became the "Mecca" for horsemen from all sections of the country. At present we find that all the great trotting horses, with rare exceptions, trace their ancestry to the noted "Sire of Chester," the premier of which was "Hambletonian 10."

The pedigree of this remarkable sire is familiar to every horseman, for no single horse ever foaled, has achieved, from his own intrinsic merit, such an extensive and enduring representation in the trotting world.

The dam of Hambletonian, the Charles Kent mare, was owned by Jonas Seely of Chester, New York. The mare, and colt by her side, was sold to William M. Rysdyk of Chester in the year 1849 for the sum of \$125.00. Had you been a resident of Chester in 1849 you might one day have noticed a dejected-looking figure, in a pair of well-patched homespun pants, perched on the top rail of Mr. Seely's pasture lot, and recognized Bill Rysdyk of Chester. At the time he was wondering where he could raise the \$125.00 and how he was going to get it. A few years later Mr. Rysdyk was heard to remark that "Hambletonian paid for his farm from last year's earnings of this noble horse."

The colt, under the careful management of his new owner, rapidly improved, and Hambletonian's strength and outstanding qualities were due to "Mr. Rysdyk's genius in caring for and developing him."

In the fall of the same year, the mare, and colt by her side, was exhibited at the Annual Fair of the Agricultural Society of Orange County held in Goshen, New York, and again shown at the Annual Fair held in the same place the next year 1850, and by the fall of 1851, when only two years old, so rapidly had been his growth, that he represented a fully developed horse.

Hambletonian 10 or Rysdyk's Hambletonian, also called the "Progenitor of Trotters," was a beautiful bay in color, with a star and white hind ankles, stood $15\frac{1}{2}$ hands high, his head was large, with large and pleasant eyes.

The one thing insisted upon by Mr. Rysdyk in connection with his horse Hambletonian was that any picture taken of him had to be perfect, and such was the dictum given all artists who painted the horse's portrait. A Mr. Sharpless of Philadelphia took a picture of Hambletonian with his ears thrown back and had it printed in "Turf, Field and Farm." Mr. Rysdyk was very much offended, and it was a long time before he forgave the man. As a result of this peculiarity, many wooden images were painted and sold as portraits of Hambletonian (this all made free advertising). Mr. Rysdyk started out as a man of simple needs, and only asked a fee of \$25.00 to permit Hambletonian to cover mares, but as his horse became more and more in demand, he raised the price until it finally reached \$500.00.

His only trotting record, 2:48 $\frac{1}{2}$, was made as a three-year old, on the Union Course on Long Island, the only time we have any record of his being taken out of Orange County.

Hambletonian 10 was foaled May 5th, 1849, and died March 27th, 1876, and was buried in a plot of ground on the farm of his owner, having survived his owner.

Frank Durland was present at the burial of the "Hero of Chester" (as he was then called); this was on a cold March day in '76. The Box was a large affair, built of two-inch planed and grooved white pine, long enough to hold

the horse lying down. The top was fitted in place and the box with the "old horse" was lowered by a block and tackle to its present resting place.

He was retired from the stud in 1871, five years before his death in 1876. During his long career in the stud he brought to his owner, Mr. Rysdyk, the large sum in fees of over \$185,715.00.

Over his grave stands a large monument of Ozark Mountain Granite, erected by his admirers at a cost of \$3,000.00.

A few years ago through the efforts of the admirers of the "old hoss" a large boulder was erected to mark the spot on which the colt was dropped in 1849. This marker can be seen at any time on the former Jonas Seely farm, now owned by Wakely Banker, about three miles south of the Village of Chester, near Sugar Loaf. On its face has been placed a bronze marker inscribed as follows:

"Hambletonian #10, father of the trotting horse, foaled on this spot May 5th, 1849, erected by his admirers August 3rd, 1935."

Other Sports

Chester baseball was of the earliest organized sport in Orange County. Its teams ranked with the best, as evidenced by their frequent winning of championships.

The oldest town baseball team is known to have functioned prior to 1889. They played on the old race track grounds on the Cornelius Wood farm. Among them were: Winfield Coleman (first to throw a curve), Charles Stewart, Wm. Snowden, Wm. Bennett, Geo. Fredericks, James Brannen, Fred. Brannen, Thomas Rafferty, John Cullen, Alfred C. Kronk and Edw. Coleman.

A team is known to have played with other teams of the Orange-Wayne County League, on Guy Miller's lot back of Walton Hose and later at the Maple Avenue field opposite the School. On one of the games, between Honesdale and Chester, the nationally known Christie Mathewson pitched, and among the players were Mike O'Neil and Mike Moran before they tied up with St. Louis.

In 1905 the Chester town team played Florida at the Goshen Driving Park, defeating Florida 12 to 10 in a ten-

inning game, earning the Orange County championship and a \$200 purse. The names of the winners are worthy of the record. They were: Fred. Murray, 1st; Geo. Ryan, 2nd; Louis Fitzgerald, 3rd; Jerry Eagan, SS; Harry M. Littell, LF; Mortimer Pierce, CF; John Hunter, RF & P; William J. Littell, P & RF; William H. Smith, C; Wm. O'Brien, Sub; and Charles A. Thompson, Mgr.

The town team began when ball playing was bare handed. Today it is fully equipped with all modern conveniences. Games, sponsored by the American Legion, are played daily during the daylight saving season, on the High School green, from 6:30 on, to a large and appreciative audience. Sounds of voices and hand clapping fill the air distances away.

CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL — 1901-1902

SCHOOL COLORS—*Scarlet and Black*

SCHOOL SONG—*Scarlet and Black*

SCHOOL YELL

Acka lacka ching acka lacka chow
Acka lacka chinga lacka chow-chow-chow
Sis boom bah sis boom bah
Chester High School, rah-rah-rah

The Chester High School baseball team chalked up successes of its own. In interscholastic games, played on Maple Avenue diamond, it won Orange County championships in three successive years—1898, 1899 and 1900. Among the players were: William J. Littell, Charles Stewart, Frank Farrell, Fred Seely, Louis Fitzgerald, Mack Miller, Gill Van Kleeck, Harry B. Davis and Luke Van Kleeck.

In 1911, the School team again won the Orange County championship, also a trophy from the Middletown Times Press and The Newburgh Daily News.

Another championship was bestowed upon the Chester boys in 1937.

Football. Chester Interscholastic football was first played in 1899. It followed in 1900, winning championships in each year. The boys played Goshen, Warwick, Middletown, Port Jervis and Newburgh. Following are some of the Chester participants:

Hudson B. Green, Center
Charles Stewart, LHB
Gil Van Kleeck, RE
Harry Davis, GB
Fred Green, RG
Wm. J. Littell, LT
Louis Fitzgerald, LE

Luke Van Kleeck, RT
Mack Miller, FB
Fred Roe, RHB
Frank Farrell, LE
Harry Case, LG
George Earles, Sub
Fred Seely, QB

Championship honors followed in 1901 and 1902, with the following players:

Frank Green, Center
Orman Marsh, RG
Hugh Rooney, RT
Frank Illenberg, RE
Wm. Masten, LG
Fred Earl, LT

Harry Hoyt, LE
Harry M. Littell, RHB
George Wilson, LHB
Newman Schriver, FB
David Perrott, RE
Mack Miller, FB

Basketball—Town Team. In 1920 the Hambletonian Club was organized by H. B. Tuthill, Wm. H. Smith, Louis Knapp, Thom. Cullen, Wm. Smyth, Sr., and George L. Wilson. They put a basketball team in the field known as the Hambletonians and played on the Produce Hall court. It brought much publicity and honor to the town as one of the best teams in the East. They played and won over the Triangles-Walden, Goshen, Rainbows, Dominicas, Florida, Monroe, Port Jervis Caseys, Otisville, Company L, Erie All Stars, Nomads, Newburgh Rainbows, Red Sox, N. Y. Crescents, Sloatsburgh, Paterson Reds, Ellenville, Jersey All Stars.

The big event, however, took place on January 23, 1922, when they took on the World's Champions, the original Celtics of New York, on the Middletown Armory Court. Attendance was 2,000.

Turner of Paterson was Referee, John Diffily, Scorer; Mullen and Tuthill, Timers.

Hambletonians
Benny Borgman
Bobby Marvin
Ed. Kane
Powers
Reynix
Clark
Chet Dell
Art Decker

Celtics
Beckman
Reich
Leonard
Delmert
Holman
Barry

Basketball—High School Girls. The girls scored several successes for their basketball team. They won the championships in 1921, 1922, again in 1932-33 and in 1933-34.

Basketball—High School Boys had a basketball team of their own and have played many good games.

Soccer—High School. The Chester boys won the second championship in 1946. The following composed the team:

Donald Atkin	Eugene Magee
Garry Bartow	Jack McGrath
Sam Casella	Rosario Piranio
Henry Cathy	Rob't Prosser
Rob't Danner	Arthur Riley
Jas. Deshler	David Roach
Ernest Dibble	Edw. Szulwack
Vernon Dibble	Herman Van DeWeert
Joe Furman	John Van Maldin
Tom Hoskins	Jos. Verbert

Ralph Hemmingway, Coach

Chester High School—1903

"THE SCARLET AND THE BLACK"

1.

If Yale and Harvard have their songs
 Let Chester sing her chorus too,
 Tho' not a college still she boasts
 As loyal hearts and true.
 Then let us shout our praises out
 As glad and free
 On field and track, Scarlet and Black
 We victors see.
 Scarlet, the dress of sun at dawning light
 And Black, refreshing robe of night.

Chorus

Enshrined mid fields and mountain green
 Back from the Hudson's tranquil sheen
 Is Chester, seen by Erie's curving track,
 Home of the Scarlet and the Black.

2.

How well we know those rising grounds
Those maples and our classic halls
The good times had and friendships formed
Within those ancient walls.
Then let us sing with clearest ring
Our praises out
Our school forsooth and joys of youth
Demand a shout.
And ever thus when memory hastens back
We'll sing "The Scarlet and the Black."

(Tune of "Nancy Lee")

"Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

— LORD BROUGHAM

CHAPTER VIII

THE CHESTER FREE LIBRARY — SCHOOLS OF CHESTER — THE CHESTER PARENTS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION — CHESTER GRANGE — ORANGE BLOSSOM POST 1167 AMERICAN LEGION — TROOP 41 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA — GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA — CUB SCOUT PACK — ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB — CHESTER CEMETERY

The Chester Free Library

ALL phases of human endeavor, the sum total of which constitutes modern civilization, had their origin in single ideas. The basic idea might be the product of one brain, or it might have spontaneously sprung from the minds of many. Forty-seven years ago, five citizens of Chester cherished one common thought and they gave expression to it in a newspaper announcement, as of April 25, 1900. The five men were: C. W. Kerner, C. F. Wood, T. F. Lawrence, R. H. Marvin and H. B. Masten. The people of Chester were invited to a meeting at the Corporation Building on April 30, 1900, for the purpose of "organizing a non-sectarian society for the promotion of intellectual recreation . . . the maintenance of a public library . . ."

The people of Chester failed to show up at the meeting. On June 28th, the Chester Academy Alumni held their annual banquet at the Howland House. The library question was raised there and it received a favorable response. The Alumni appointed a committee which met with the Board of Education that summer. The joint committee called another public meeting for September 4, 1900. The attendance

this time was good. At the next meeting Principal Wheatly and the entire teaching staff joined, and the ball started a-rolling. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and the organization was named "The Chester Library and Social Club." A set of officers was elected as follows: W. A. Wheatly, President; Jesse Roe, Vice-President; Josie H. Thompson, Librarian; B. C. Durland, Treasurer; and Martha W. Davidson, Secretary. An Executive Committee was also chosen, with C. W. Kerner, H. B. Masten, C. S. Thompson, Jane T. Durland and Mrs. William M. Leonard. This Board together with the officers constituted the Executive Board.

The objective was set forth in the preamble to the Constitution as follows:

"The objective shall be to establish a social educational influence, which shall encourage home education by providing a free library, which shall foster culture by maintaining meetings for literary works, improve our general information by the discussion of pertinent current topics, and furnish approved social recreation by the introduction of pleasing programs of literary and musical merit."

The organization had a dues paying membership of about 70. Meetings of a social nature were held twice a month. Literary and musical programs were carried out while the business end was taken care of in executive sessions.

A provisional charter was obtained from the State in 1901, and also the standard State aid of \$100. A like sum from membership dues was added and the first purchase of books was made. A Board of Trustees of five was chosen: Hiram Tuthill, Joseph Durland, R. W. Chamberlain, Joseph Board and C. W. Kerner, to serve 1 year, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years, respectively.

Headquarters were rented on the second floor of the old bank building. In 1909 the library moved to the offices of attorney Sanford in the Tuthill building. In that year a permanent charter from the State was obtained, also an annual grant of \$200 from the Chester Town Board. In 1912 the T. F. Lawrences offered their spacious store in their building on Main Street as permanent headquarters, where the library has been holding forth to this day.

Its reputation as a well organized, well managed, all around efficient library grew with the years, eliciting praise from the Department of Education of the State of New York, as well as from grateful book borrowers. In 1920 it owned 3,300 bound volumes, and had in the past year circulated 6,238 books and 245 periodicals.

Financially, however, it would be an overstatement to say that things ran smoothly. In their ambition to keep the library up to high standards, the Board frequently faced a deficit. To obtain additional funds, concerts and other forms of entertainment were given. Admission tickets were printed and the management was obliged to turn their committee members into door to door salesmen. This was tiresome business. Something else happened in the 1920's that called for a reorganization on a new pattern. The Social Club end of the Chester Social Club and Library was retrogressing. It had in fact become a liability rather than an asset.

A reorganization took place on November 10, 1932. A revised constitution and by-laws were adopted, dropping the Social Club and adopting the name of the "Chester Free Library." Although the make-up of the governing machinery remained essentially the same, its functions became less complicated and more concentrated on the library itself. The Executive Board continued to meet monthly until 1941-1942, when the constitution was further amended.

As of today, the Executive Board meetings are held quarterly, in January, April, July and October. Each of the five Trustees is elected annually for five years. Seven residents of the town, or a smaller number, not less than three, join with the Trustees and librarian to form the Executive Board.

In 1921 the library suffered a serious loss in the death of its founder, treasurer and trustee, Mr. Charles W. Kerner. Five years later, another beloved treasurer and trustee, Mr. Bradford C. Durland, departed.

In November, 1945, tragedy once again was visited upon the library. The very efficient and most respected librarian, Miss Laura Kerner, who had served in that office for 26 years, died. Miss Kerner had a particular knack at making window displays that attracted wide attention.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 1946-1947

Mrs. Clarence Brooks.....	Term expires 1947
Mr. W. M. Hassell.....	1948
Mr. A. R. Conklin.....	1949
Mrs. T. F. Lawrence.....	1950
Mr. Edwin Chamberlain.....	1951

Executive members: Mrs. Albert Davis, Miss Louise Cottrell, Mr. T. B. Cameron, Mr. Jesse Hadley, Mr. Allan Moffat and Mrs. Arthur Prosser.

Officers: Mrs. T. F. Lawrence, President; Mrs. Albert Davis, Vice-President; Mr. Edwin Chamberlain, Secretary; Mr. Alfred R. Conklin, Treasurer; Mrs. Lawrence Riley, Librarian.

Total number of volumes as of December, 1946—7,355, including 1,441 juvenile books. Total circulation, 5,758.

<i>Income</i>		<i>Expenditures</i>	
State grant.....	\$100.00	Books and periodicals.....	\$337.00
Town	600.00	Salary librarian.....	431.25
Village	300.00	Rent	120.00
Fines, etc.	54.34	Light	24.50
Gifts	202.00	Supplies, etc.	24.25
		Insurance	29.20

Financial balance on hand, \$2,171.14

Library days: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 2 to 4:30 and 6:30 to 8:30.
Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30.

The Schools of Chester

The early history of schools in Chester involves the consideration of a number of separately functioning educational institutions rather than the single unit now in existence which serves the Village of Chester as well as the Sugar Loaf, Lake, Oxford Depot, Ridge and Valley areas.

Not only did these outlying districts maintain their own schools, but within Chester a separate school was maintained at Greycourt until as late as 1909.

Due to the loss of records in the burning of the Chester Academy (on the site now owned by the American Legion) a great deal of information concerning schools before 1904 is obtainable only through hearsay.

One of the earliest schools was located on the Goshen road just south of the Otterkill Bridge over the Erie Railroad. This school house stood opposite the present entrance road to the Arcadia farm.

Another school of the early 1800's was in the building now owned and occupied by Mr. Joseph Verbert as his residence. In 1842 the entire student body of this school enjoyed a holiday to witness the arrival of the first Erie train to reach Chester.

This same year, 1842, saw the beginning of the building of a private school known as the Chester Academy. The building fund was raised by subscription and was supported by tuition paid by the enrolled students.

Stephen Bross, the first principal, was followed by his brother, William, who later became editor of the Chicago Tribune and then Lieutenant Governor of Illinois.

There were other schools in use at the same time the Academy was in operation. One of them was erected in 1843 a short distance above the Durland homestead in West Chester and on the opposite side of the road. Sarah Wells was the first teacher and was followed by Sarah Berry who taught for many years until the school was closed.

The next school building—built in 1857—was the brick structure opposite the present Jobst Bieling residence. The following year, 1858, saw the construction of the Brick school in East Chester. This building stood in front of the home of Charles Verbert.

In 1869 legal procedure got under way for the organization of "Chester Union Free School No. 1." After preliminary discussions the first school meeting was finally held on November 12, 1869. The first board of education elected included David R. Feagles, President; Joseph Durland, Clerk; and William B. King, Treasurer; other members were John B. Tuthill, Cornelius Wood and Dr. Charles P. Smith, Sr.

These new Union Free School Districts combined the Academy and the several small schools of the neighborhood into a single unit and provided free education to all who wished it.

In 1906, at a cost of approximately \$35,000, the modern building which was destined to serve well the educational

needs of the community for 30 years was planned and became reality. Although it lacked many of the requirements which are now felt essential in a school, it was the source of great pride to those who saw it grow and come into use on "Wood's hill."

As a result of the growing demands of the twentieth century and the desires of this educationally-minded community, it became clear in the early 1930's that consideration must now be given to property housing a growing student body with wide demands for educational preparation.

The outgrowth of these forces was the present structure on Maple Avenue which is now (1947) in its tenth year of use. Built at a cost of \$278,000 (of which \$100,000 was given outright by the Federal Government) it serves not only as the educational heart of this area but also as the center for many and varied community activities. With its fine auditorium, library, shop, homemaking, science, commercial, and other facilities it ranks second to none in the county.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jesse F. Hadley, President
William R. Conklin, Kenneth Green, Frank C. Helme and
Harry M. Littell, Trustees
Joseph Hughes, Secretary

PRINCIPALS OF THE CHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

1. J. D. Brownell	1881-1888
2. J. B. Sherwood	1888-1890
3. Fred Wilson	1890-1896
4. J. F. Barringer	1896-1899
5. Carlos Woodworth	1899-1900
6. W. A. Wheatley	1900-1904
7. M. L. Dann	1904-1906
8. F. J. Squires	1906-1908
9. Raymond W. Freed	1908-1913
10. Anderson Hale	1913-1916
11. Hugh N. Garwood	1916-1929
12. Roy W. Epting	1929-1937
13. Russell W. Ludlum	1937-December 1942
14. Harold S. Ferguson*	December 1942-December 1945
15. Russell W. Ludlum	December 1945-present

* Mr. Ferguson served for three years during the leave of absence of Mr. Ludlum for duty in the U. S. Navy.

The Chester Parent-Teacher Association

The Chester P.T.A. was organized on October 8, 1923. The first meeting took place at the Parish House, Rev. A. S. Goodrich presiding. At the November meeting a constitution and by-laws were adopted.

The objective set forth was "to be the study of the child, the home, the school and the community; to create a better understanding between teacher and parent and to encourage cooperation of all work for the interests of the child, for charitable education and patriotic purposes."

Mrs. Robert Young was first President; Mrs. Charles Hunter, Vice-President; Mr. Asa Goodrich, Secretary; Mrs. Richard Miller, Treasurer. There were thirty charter members.

The meetings, from 1923 to 1937, were held at the Parish House, the school on the hill, or the Grange building. Since 1937 the meetings have been held monthly at the new school. The membership has averaged 100. During the first few years prizes were given twice a year to pupils having attained the highest scholarship, and to pupils making the greatest improvement. The scholarship prizes were later discontinued, but the improvement prizes are still being awarded.

The meetings have always been of a constructive nature. Following a short business session the platform is given over to a lecture on history, science, travel, community and school problems, or music and other forms of entertainment.

The P.T.A. has cooperated with the American Legion in sponsoring the Oratorical Contests since 1937. The P.T.A. organized an Adult Education and Recreation Group. A parent pre-school group was organized by Mrs. Russell Ludlum. The P.T.A. presented the school with a moving picture projector and screen.

With the assistance of several community organizations, the Association has established a milk fund and a rotating fund. These have been functioning since 1937. The Rotating Fund has \$150 in its treasury.

As a precaution against diphtheria epidemics, the Association was instrumental in having all children inoculated with toxin, anti-toxin cultures against the disease.

Holiday parties are given for children, at which home talent in plays and other forms of entertainment are encouraged, and choral groups invited from neighboring towns.

Presidents 1923-1947 in the order given:

Mrs. Robert Young, Sr.
 Mrs. Charles Hunter
 Mrs. Wm. Brock
 Mrs. Jesse F. Hadley
 Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain
 Mrs. William Lawrence
 Mrs. Fred Murray
 Mrs. Walter Davis
 Mrs. James Lawrence
 Mrs. Clayton Decker
 Mrs. Elizabeth J. Wilkin
 Mrs. Earl Predmore, Sr.
 Mrs. Frank Helme
 Rev. Wesley Gebhart
 Mrs. Arthur Prosser
 Mrs. Margaret Carpenter
 Mrs. Russell Roe
 Mrs. William Conklin

OFFICERS — 1946-1947

Mrs. William Conklin, *President*
 Mrs. Rollin Schank, *Vice-President*
 Mrs. Coleman Writer, *Treasurer*
 Miss Elizabeth Nugent, *Secretary*
 Mrs. Jesse Hadley, *Historian*

Chester Grange

A meeting was held at Bodles Hall, Chester, N. Y., on Saturday, June 27, 1903. The purpose of the meeting was the organizing of a Grange. County Deputy F. H. Vail occupied the chair. He stated the object of the meeting and explained how the order benefited the farmer and of the urgent need of cooperation among them, stating further that the Grange was the only organized body of farmers throughout the land, thoroughly equipped, working directly for the Agriculturist. After his remarks he proceeded to organize the Chester Grange. The following officers were elected:

Master—James Seely
 Overseer—Seely Durland
 Lecturer—Hiram Tuthill, Jr.
 Chaplain—John Bernart
 Steward—Ira Fitzgerald
 Treasurer—Ira Green
 Secretary—C. Foss Wood .

Gate Keeper—W. S. Johnson
Ceres—Amy Johnson
Pomona—Fanny Johnson
Flora—Laura Wood
Lady Assistant Steward—Mrs. Wm. Fitzgerald
Assistant Steward—Howard Seely

With regular members Wm. Fitzgerald, Wm. Mills, E. D. Green, F. W. Davis, Unise Glann, Mrs. H. Tuthill, Jr., and George Glann. After the election of officers the following committee was appointed to procure a permanent meeting place: George Glann, Foss Wood and Fanny Glann. Mr. Tuthill offered his home for the next meeting which was held on Monday, July 6, 1903.

The first regular meeting was opened with Master Jas. Seely and Master C. S. Wells of Goshen Grange. It was resolved to close the Grange in the fourth degree and open in the first degree in order to initiate the charter members. Following meetings were held in the homes of members. A permanent meeting place was then procured at the K of P Hall. New members joined. Good times were had. Everyone wanted to join; many did, and the Grange grew.

By-laws were adopted and incorporation papers obtained. In April, 1904, the Grange moved to the Butter Factory. The place was purchased for \$1,000.

During the first years of its existence the Grange bought and sold feed and groceries. Next came a patrons exchange. Members exchanged merchandise by barter.

The Grange favored the Cowan Milk bill, 687. In 1905 The Chester Grange Company was formed by Grangers with individual investments not over \$300 each. The Grange Company moved to the Conklin building, where the first Pomona meeting was held, in December, 1905. It was resolved that "the state roads are of more benefit to the automobilist than the farmer."

In 1906, Chester Grange had its first agricultural exhibit at the Orange County Fair.

The Grange rented Murray's blacksmith shop, now Lords, and hired George Fitzgerald to do the blacksmithing. It was a huge success at first, but did not do so well later, and was finally abandoned.

Then came a time (no one remembers the exact date) when the Grange showed symptoms of illness. Meetings were poorly attended and debts were incurred. Then luck just as suddenly returned and the Grange staged a phenomenal comeback. It purchased new properties and regalias, participated in parades, sent delegates to the State Grange, broadcasted over WGNV and won the U. C. Davis Farm Bureau Cup.

In 1928 the Grange celebrated the 25th anniversary at the Presbyterian Church. Leander Keeney was Master, and Charles Gardener, High Priest Demeter, was the guest speaker.

In 1929 a fire destroyed the properties and records of the Grange, and it was once again in difficulties, but soon overcame them. A new home was built and the Grange continued in its forward march.

In March, 1931, the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. William Conklin was celebrated.

In 1941 the Grange bought the Hall in Sugar Loaf, where it has been holding its meetings since. Mrs. Frankie Keeney, a 50-year member in a New Jersey branch, was presented with the Golden Sheaf Certificate from the National Grange, in 1946.

The present membership is 180, including two charter members, Mr. Howard Seely and Mr. Ira Fitzgerald; also a 42-year member, Mr. Hamlet S. Roe.

OFFICERS — 1947

Master—Edward McMunn
 Overseer—Fred Wilkin
 Lecturer—Ruth Storms
 Steward—Floyd Storms
 Assistant Steward—John Edwards
 Chaplain—Harry Bliven
 Treasurer—Coleman Writer
 Secretary—Annie Adams
 Gate Keeper—Robert Hulse
 Ceres—Helen Hulse
 Pomona—Marie Thompson
 Flora—Harriet LaForge
 Lady Assistant Steward—Marie Wilkin
 Standard Bearer—Frank Thompson
 Pianist—Coleman Writer

Orange Blossom Post 1167 American Legion

The purpose, as set forth in the Preamble of the Constitution of The American Legion:

"For God and Country,
We associate ourselves together
For the following purposes:
To uphold and defend
The Constitution of the United States of America;
To maintain law and order;
To foster and perpetuate
A one hundred percent Americanism;
To preserve the memories and incidents
Of our associations in the Great War;
To include a sense of individual obligation
To the community, state and nation;
To combat the autocracy
Of both the classes and the masses;
To make right the master of might;
To promote peace and good will on earth;
To safeguard and transmit to posterity
The principles of Justice, Freedom and Democracy;
To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
By our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

Organization of the Post took place on July 8, 1936, at the K of P Hall in Chester. Twenty men were present at the meeting: they elected the following officers: Commander, Clarence Board; Vice Commanders, Joseph D. Smith, Charles E. Casey and Harry M. McCoy; Treasurer, Raymond A. Miller; Adjutant, Nicholas Uyhelyi; Sergeant at Arms, August Shopinsky; Historian, W. Sanford Durland; Chaplain, Albert H. Mather.

A charter was obtained on April 16, 1937; a Corporation Certificate August 4, 1938. Meetings were held regularly each month at the Girl Scout rooms in the old bank building. The Post at once became one of the leading Legion organizations in Orange County. The first County convention was held in Chester on July 12, 1942. It also met in Chester in 1945. A parade through the village, a dinner and the presentation of trophies are among the features at the annual conventions.

Annual Memorial Day parades through the village, exercises at the cemetery, followed by a dinner, are regular features of the local Post.

It sponsors annual oratorical contests among the students of the Chester High School, and prizes are awarded for the best essays on Americanism. Eli Weckstein, Sadie Graselana, James Welsh, Mary Dibble, Harriet Tolley, Katherine Roe and Helen Price were among the winners. It also sponsors athletic game contests, basketball, baseball, etc. It places plaques on the walls of the High School and Parochial School on which the names of the winning contestants are inscribed. The Post makes frequent donations to worthy causes, such as Red Cross and the School milk fund.

Past Commanders:

Clarence Board	1936-1937
Joseph D. Smith	1937-1938
Harry M. McCoy	1938-1939
Charles E. Casey	1939-1940
Nicholas Uyhelyi	1940-1941
Miles M. Custard	1941-1942
Harry L. Murray	1942-1943
Rollin N. Schank	1943-1944
Arthur E. Prosser	1944-1945
Rev. L. C. Dibble	1945-1946

Officers 1947:

Commander, Edward Otterstedt; Vice Commanders, Michael Vadala, J. Bentley Egbertson and William D. Conklin; Treasurer, Harry L. Murray; Adjutant, Edward Onody; Chaplain, Frank J. Glynn; Sergeant at Arms, Clyde Kniffen; Historian, George Mapes.

In 1946, a lot was purchased on the corner of Academy Street and road 17, for the erection of permanent quarters. In 1946 the membership was 152.

Troop 41, Boy Scouts of America

Organized in 1914 through the efforts of C. E. Tooker, Troop 41, Boy Scouts of America has had an eventful and uninterrupted existence. Mr. Burrows was Scout Master over a period of eight years and was a very hard and faithful worker. He accomplished much co-operation from the Scouts. After his death in 1922 Alfred R. Conklin who was assistant Scout Master carried on. From the membership of 40 Scouts Robert Miller organized the Boy Scout Drum and Bugle

Corps which, under his leadership and instruction, acquired much fame and was a credit to the community. They won numerous prizes for excellent playing, drilling and appearances on the many engagements they filled at fraternal and patriotic parades throughout the State. The highlight was a special drill and concert staged for Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt at Newburgh, N. Y.

Notable among the functions of the boys was the guidance of automobilists through the dangerous underpass at Demerest's culvert before the present bridge over the Lehigh & Hudson R. R. on route 17 was built. They collected around \$2,000 in tips which was tossed to them by the appreciative tourists as they passed through this most dangerous turn. They saved many accidents and lives at this spot. They did a splendid job selling war bonds in World War I. The conduct of the annual Memorial Day services was the Scouts' job until the American Legion took over a few years ago. Collection of waste paper during World War II was one of their daily good deeds.

Mr. Gaylord Seely granted them permission to build a Scout cabin at Proctors Ice Pond on Goosepond Mountain, which they use for sports and recreation.

Troop 41 has won some high honors in scouting. Eagle Scout Badges have been presented to Robert and John Knapp. Wendell Conklin (who paid the Supreme Sacrifice in World War II) was awarded the Star Scout Badge. A Silver Beaver Badge was awarded to Scout Master Alfred R. Conklin for outstanding work with the Scouts and his general interest in the community.

Troop 41 is sponsored by Walton Hose and Engine Co. No. 1 Inc., and meets in the Library building with Charles Ellers as Scout Master.

Girl Scouts of America

Miss Dorothy Pollock and others organized the Girl Scout Troop in 1928 with a large membership. Assisted by Miss Janis Janes of the Newburgh Y.W.C.A. classes of instruction were held in the Produce Hall for folk dancing, arts and crafts. The girls went camping at Camp Tapawingo, Bear Mountain and Tomahawk Lake. Courses in nursing, cook-

ing, archery, horseback riding and other sports were given. Council bowls were held on Demerest Hill and largely attended by Scouts and their parents. Meetings were held in the old bank building through the generosity of Mr. William R. Conklin, Sr. A drum and bugle corps was organized with Robert Miller as director. They won a number of competitive prizes in parades. When Miss Pollock left Chester, Mrs. Kieffer took over the leadership. Mrs. Russell Ludlum is the present leader and the Girl Scouts are busy planning for a very successful year.

Cub Scout Pack

The Chester Cub Scout Pack No. 176 was organized in 1947 through the efforts of Alfred R. Conklin, Chairman of Scouting, William C. Price, Albert Davis and others. It is sponsored by the Chester Chamber of Commerce. Weekly meetings are held at the homes of Den Mothers, Mrs. Charles Ringen and Mrs. Malcolm White. Monthly Pack meetings are held in the Parish Hall of the Episcopal Church. Officers for 1947 are: William C. Price, Cub Master; Jack Wykoff, Assistant Master. Committeemen are: Malcolm White, Harry M. Littell, Albert Davis, Clarence Board, William R. Conklin and Alfred R. Conklin. John Herrlein is Sponsors Representative.

Italian-American Club

On December 30, 1934, Frank Grasso called a meeting at the Produce building for the purpose of organizing an Italian-American Club. Thirty members were present and the Club was organized. It later moved to the Wilkin building on Main Street, where it has been holding its meetings since.

The purpose of the Club is social intercourse, a closer tie between its constituents and also entertainment. The Club has been participating in the annual Memorial Day parades and ceremonies of the town. Eleven of the younger men served in the armed forces in World War II, some overseas.

Morris Contarino is President of the Club. 1947 membership is 40.

Chester Cemetery

Plots on the Chester Cemetery prior to 1902 were owned by many individuals. A third of the tract had been acquired by the Presbyterian Church as far back as 1829. Some of the individual plots were dated 1735, 1755, 1765 and so on. In the year 1902 the entire area was acquired by a newly organized, non-profit organization, "The Chester Cemetery Association, Inc." The first meeting was held at the Corporation building on August 6, 1902, and the following directors were chosen:

William A. Lawrence, Thaddius S. Durland, Frank Durland, to serve one year; George M. Roe, Charles R. Bull, James Seely, to serve two years; Samuel S. Durland, Roswell S. Chamberlain and Henry W. Wood, to serve three years.

Certificate of Incorporation of the Chester Cemetery Association was filed with the Orange County Clerk, August 14, 1902; with the Secretary of State, August 15, 1902.

Officers, 1947:

Edwin D. Chamberlain.....	President
Seely Roe.....	Vice-President
William H. Smith	Secretary-Treasurer
William H. Smith.....	Superintendent

Directors:

Walter J. Conklin
Charles F. Johnson
Harry L. Green

The Association has a membership of one hundred.

"As long as war is regarded as wicked it will always have its fascination. When it is looked upon as vulgar it will cease to be popular."

— OSCAR WILDE

CHAPTER IX

CHESTER'S PARTICIPATION IN WORLD WAR II

HISTORIES are written in retrospect, and we are still too close to World War II to be in a position to properly analyze it. Besides, a number of facts are still war secrets and it will take some time before they will be public property. We can, however, generalize on Chester's participation in the war without stepping on anybody's toes.

Beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, and the declaration of a state of war with Germany and Italy that followed it, the inhabitants of Chester organized on all home fronts with promptness and efficiency short only of being an armed camp. There were air raid drills and blackouts; first aid classes, conducted by Drs. Davis and Sullivan and first aid stations. Registration offices were opened, in charge of the ladies, where inventories were taken of all available premises for shelter, beds, bedding and utensils for city guests who might get evacuation orders. When a call came for rubber, huge wire barrels were quickly filled, and trucks gathered metals from cellars and barns.

The ladies excelled in Red Cross work preparing first aid kits, bandages and sewing of aprons and gowns and children's apparel. And they were expert fund solicitors for the various war chests. It was one drive after another, and each fulfilled more than its quota.

The sale of war bonds was especially brisk. Auctions were held in the School auditorium to capacity audiences. Merchandise of many varieties filled the platform, donated

by all who had something to offer and sold to the highest bidder so much per in war bonds.

The auditorium looked more like a trading post than a meeting place. Knocked down for sums ranging from \$25 to \$2,000 in war bonds, were: Canned preserves and jellies, cigarettes, cigars, whiskeys and wines, hosiery, sweaters, kitchen utensils, furniture, scythes, hoes, shovels, baskets of fruits, sacks of potatoes, bags of flour, corn and feed; a cage of pullets, broilers, rabbits; paintings, woodcuts and books; a heifer, etc.

The Chester people bought war bonds, all drives, in the sum of close to \$800,000.

Philosophers define pleasure as being a state of exaltation due to the absence of pain. V-J Day confirmed that definition. The news of Japan's surrender came over the air at 6 P.M., September 2, 1945. Chester streets were deserted. Businesses had been shut and the people were indoors around their supper tables. Suddenly the siren sounded the expected number of blasts. An ominous silence, then sounds echoed again, this time from opening doors and windows out of which mixed, exclamatory voices poured forth, cutting sharply into the still atmosphere. Within a few short minutes indoor life changed places with the outdoors, as the streets began to fill. Scouts with trumpets and drums; Legionnaires, Firemen, Grangers, Red Cross workers in uniform; civilians, farmers in cars, on horseback and on foot; school children with their teachers. All were in formation in the largest and most impressive parade the town had ever seen. People sang, yelled, laughed or wept. Strangers shook hands and exchanged congratulations; friends and relatives kissed. The war was over. Sons, fathers, sweethearts and husbands would now return and normal, peaceful living resumed.

The war, indeed, was over in 1945. It is 1947. Sons, fathers, sweethearts and husbands who have returned, leaving behind them some who never will, their grim faces betraying an uneasiness expressive of the unanswerable—where, oh where is the peace we have fought and sacrificed our lives for?

WORLD WAR II VETERANS FOR THE PLANNED
NEW MEMORIAL

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| ALBRO, Glenn E. | DENON, Charles G. |
| BABCOCK, Frank | DESHLER, Frederick J. |
| BAHREN, William B. | DE WINTER, James T. |
| BAILEY, Donald C. | DIBBLE, Charles G. |
| BAILEY, Patrick P. | DURLAND, John B. |
| BIELÉN, John A. | ECKERSON, James B. |
| BIELING, Jobst A. | EDWARDS, John M. |
| BOWEN, Vincent J. | EDWARDS, Joseph W. |
| BRANDT, Robert T. | EITEL, Charles A. |
| BRIMBERG, Sidney | |
| BUDD, Beekman | FELDNER, George |
| **BUDD, Bern | FELLNER, J. Arthur |
| BUDD, Bern, Jr. | FITZGERALD, Robert O. |
| **BUDD, Ogden | FRUSTACI, Bruno N. |
| **BUDD, Thomas | FRUSTACI, Charles J. |
| BUDNICK, John | FURMAN, Jack |
| BUDNICK, Joseph | |
| BUDNICK, Susan | GALLOWAY, Robert N. |
| BUTLER, Asa, Jr. | GARGIULO, Joseph A. |
| BUTLER, Gerald | GARVILLA, Bernard |
| BUTLER, Roland | GARVILLA, Edmund |
| | GARVILLA, Frank |
| CARDILLO, Frederick | GARVILLA, John J. |
| CARDILLO, Joseph J. | GARVILLA, Joseph |
| CARUSO, James | GARVILLA, Rudolph |
| CASELLA, Rosario | GERNER, Morris I. (M.D.) |
| CASSANITE, Frank | GLYNN, Francis J. (Chaplain) |
| CASSISI, Dominick S. | GOILET, Peter |
| CATHY, Eugene H. | GRASSELINA, Charles D. |
| CHAMBERLAIN, Edward F. | GREEN, Carl |
| COATES, Elmer D. | GREEN, Donald |
| *CONKLIN, L. Wendell | GRIFFITH, Hunter |
| CONKLIN, Robert H. | GRILLO, Arthur D. |
| CONKLIN, Walter D. | GRILLO, Joseph |
| CONKLIN, Walter J., Jr. | |
| CONKLIN, William D. | HOLBERT, Coe |
| CONNORS, Thomas F. | HAWKINS, George, Jr. |
| CONTARINO, Morris | HOLBERT, Doris L. |
| COX, Robert H. | HOLMBERG, Henry J. |
| CULLEN, Suzanne | HOUSE, Harold G. |
| CULLEN, Thomas J. V., Jr. | HOUSE, Harry F. |
| CUSTARD, Miles B. | HOWELL, Edwin |
| | HUNTER, Edward F. |
| *DEGAN, Edward, Jr. | HUNTER, Horace, Jr. |
| DEGAN, Eugene B. | HYATT, Sanford |
| DEGAN, Gerard R. | |
| DEGROAT, Charles E. | JACKMANN, Lawrence |
| DEGROAT, Frank | JACOBS, John H. |
| DEMEREST, William M. | JEFFERIES, Arthur A., Jr. |

JOHNSON, Ben B.
JOHNSON, Floyd A., Jr.
JOHNSON, Harry

KANE, Edward J.
KEAGY, Thomas J.
KELLY, Lloyd L.
**KING, Mary B.
KING, Maxine E.
KNAPP, John
KNIFFEN, Clyde
KRAPPE, Robert W.
KREHER, James J.
KREHER, Paul M.

LABARBERA, Thomas
LAROE, Mark K., Jr.
LEATHAM, George
LINK, Joseph
LIPPERT, Theodore
LIPSEY, Margaret M.
LIPSEY, Stanley
LIPSEY, Walter C.
LUDLUM, Russell W.

MALANEY, Stephen G.
MANGANO, Veto L.
MAPES, Frederick D.
MAPES, George L.
MAPES, Helen E.
MARGARUM, Wilbur F.
**McCOY, Harry M.
McCOY, James
McGINNIS, Arthur G.
MIDDLEBROOK, Arthur L.
MILLER, Frank L.
MILLER, Paul L.
MILLER, William R.
MINNEMAN, William P.
MULLER, John E.
MURCH, Kenneth
MURRAY, Elizabeth
MURRAY, Harry L., Jr.
MUSUMECI, Alfred
MUSUMECI, Rose S.
MONTAYNA, Mailan S., Jr.

NENDZE, George A.
NENDZE, Harold O.
NENNA, Mauro
NOZKOWSKI, Edward
NOZKOWSKI, Harry
NOZKOWSKI, Thomas

ONODY, Edward S.
OTTERSTEDT, Edward D.
OWEN, Edmund

PALMER, Andrew L.
PAMULA, John R.
PARKS, Clifford J.
PARKS, Lawrence P.
PARKS, Walter M.
PELLEW, Seely O.
PETERSON, Richard K.
PETERSON, Victor K.
PIEKARA, Maclaus
PIRANO, Francis
POTTER, George
POTTER, W. Wilson
POWELL, Theron F.
PRICE, Frank S.
PRICE, John J.
PRICE, Joseph E.
PUGLISI, Henry
PULVIRENT, Benjamin B.
PULVIRENT, Joseph A.
PULVIRENT, Sylvester

QUACKENBUSH, Herbert W.

RAMSEY, Frank R.
RAMSEY, Henry
RIBANDO, Henry
RILEY, Edward G.
RILEY, Frank
ROACH, Joseph
ROACH, William M., Jr.
ROE, Nathaniel O.
ROE, Ruth Helene
*ROMER, Howard
RUSSO, Nunzio
RYAN, John F.
RYAN, John R.

SCANDURRA, Joseph L.
SCHANCK, Garret D.
SCHANCK, James S.
SCHULTZ, Joseph
SLINGERLAND, Arthur
SLINGERLAND, William J.
SMITH, George F.
SMYTH, William J.
SPINA, Paul S.
STOLL, Charles A.
STONE, Davis P.
SUMARA, Frank

SWAIN, Evans
SWAIN, William

TORRISI, Joseph
TORRISI, Joseph J.
TURFLER, James L.

VADALA, Michael J.
VADALA, Ross J.
VANCE, Vincent
VAN DERHOFF, John H.
VAN DERHOFF, Vincent
VANTASSLE, Carlton D.
VASTA, Fred H.

VASTA, Joseph S.
VERO, Louis
VERO, Frank R.
VERO, Ross

WEKSTEIN, Eli
WEKSTEIN, Morris
**WELSH, James K., Sr.
WHITBY, Leo F.
WINTERS, Charles N., Jr.
WOOLFE, Charles T.
WRIGHT, Charles H.

ZANGRILLO, Angelo

* Killed in World War II

** Served in World Wars I and II

HONOR ROLL WORLD WAR I

Charles Babcock, Jr.
John E. Bailey
George W. Bartow
William D. Bartow
Anthony S. Becker
Clarence L. Board
Mary S. Board
Clarence G. Brooks
Nial Brown
Annie Budd
Bern Budd
Ogden D. Budd
Thomas G. Budd
John J. Carrol
William Carpenter
Herbert H. Case
Erwin Clifford
Edward A. Coffey
Thomas W. Coffey
Gilbert Combet
J. McGrath Cullen
Arthur W. Decker
John J. Diffily, Jr.
Ernest B.. Dubois
W. Sanford Durland
Sidney T. Flemming
John B. Lippert
Robert N. Lippert, Jr.
John Lutjens, Jr.
Lawrence May
Frank McCoy
Harry M. McCoy
Mary V. McWhorter
Ray A. Miller
Robert B. Miller

Leon Morgan
James Masso
Harry L. Murray
Giovanni Musumeci
Harry J. Meyers
Paul Otto
William Paris
J. Alfred Parkin
Ruth M. Parkin
Benjamin H. Peterson
Clarence Potter
George S. Potter
Ray L. Quackenbush
Frank Ramsey
Matthew Richmond
David Roach
James F. Roach
Salvatore Fratto
Harry V. Fredericks
Leo Gail
D. R. Garcia
Robert Goelet
Washington Hallock
Henry T. Hallahan
George A. Howard
Charles G. Hunter
Lewis Jackman
Joseph F. Johnson
Silas Johnson
Herman W. Karch
Alfred Kroll
Henry J. Kropp
John O. Kropp
Stewart Laroe
Clifford B. Laroe

Mark K. Laroe
William A. Lawrence
William Roach
William Rugar
Profello Santucci
Seely Schultz
Charles E. Smith
Joseph D. Smith
Joseph Sorbello
Isidore Vadalla
Alfred Van Demark

Roy Van Demark
Howard Vance
Orpha D. Wood
Henry G. Winters
Frank Yilek

In Memoriam

W. Allen Hoyt
Daniel S. Burrows
Rosario Vero
Oswald Wardrop

"A Church is God between walls."

— VICTOR HUGO

CHAPTER X

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH — ST. COLUMBA CHURCH —
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH — METHODIST CHURCH

First Presbyterian Church

IN 1783, Abijah Yelverton donated an acre of land, upon which the Chester Inn now stands, for the erection of a Church. The building of it, however, did not materialize until 1797. It was completed in 1798. It was a log building of simple design. Rev. Samson R. Jones took charge of the congregation at a salary of \$75.00 a year, but was given the privilege of teaching in the village school to piece out his support. The charter members were twenty-one in number, six men and 15 women. Their names were:

Seth Marvin, Jonathan Hallock, Samuel Harlow, James Foster, William Vail, Jesse Cooly.

Rosanna Kinner, Elizabeth Hallock, Ruth Vail, Julia Holly, Mary Mapes, Ann Cooly, Sarah Littel, Bertha Kinner, Hannah Hallock, Eliza Satterly, Sarah Marvin, Susanna Holbert, Eunice Popino, Laninna Feagles.

In 1810 the Church was taken under the care of the Hudson Presbytery, and thus became a child of the General Assembly Presbyterian Church of the U. S. of America. In 1813, the congregation adopted the Presbyterian form of Church government. The deacons were: General Seth Marvin, Jonathan Hallock, William Vail and William Gray. Rev. Daniel Crane succeeded Rev. Jones and in 1813 Mr. Noah Coe succeeded Rev. Crane.

The second Church was built on the present cemetery site and was dedicated in 1829. It was a narrow, long, low edifice, and had no spire and no gallery. The building was unsatisfactory, and so were the surroundings.

The present Church was dedicated in 1854. The chapel in the rear was built in 1884. The Church was remodeled with memorial windows inserted, in 1898. It now has over two hundred communicant members and a Sabbath school of eighty pupils. Rev. Frederick J. Allsup is the present Pastor. The First Presbyterian Church is the oldest in the village. It will celebrate its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary in the spring of 1948.

PASTORS — 1798-1947

Rev. S. R. Jones
 " David Crane
 " Noah Coe
 " James H. Thomas
 " John B. Fish
 " Isaac C. Beach
 " James W. Wood, D.D.
 " Thomas Nichols
 " T. A. Leggett
 " Thomas C. Beattie

Rev. John F. Burrows, D.D.
 " Robert H. McCreedy, Ph.D.
 " George A. McAlister
 " Thomas M. Simonton
 " Malvin C. Jacobs
 " William H. Wilcox
 " Peter F. Wall
 " Albert J. Sanders
 " John Lawrence Reid
 " Frederick J. Allsup

St. Columba Church

The St. Columba Church of Chester was built in 1881, through the efforts of Timothy McGrath, Joseph Gavin, John McBride, Bernard Cullen, and functioned as a Goshen Mission Church, with Father John Keogan officiating. The foundation stones were obtained by the parishioners from the Orange Farm.

In 1890 the Church began to function independently, with Father Coely as the first Priest. He was followed by Father Hughes and others. Rev. Walter H. Gilmore served the Church for seventeen years. After his death on September 3, 1944, Father Corcoran took over the pulpit, assisted by Father Uzinsky. In 1946, a fire destroyed the Church. Committees have been active in gathering funds for a new building, but the prohibitive cost of building material has made progress rather slow. The estimated cost of \$250,000, a staggering sum, caused the parishioners to tarry yet awhile until materials ease up a bit.

Prayer meetings are temporarily held in the School building, which was built in 1909, as a Parochial School. 80

pupils now fill its classes. The Church has some 500 parishioners.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The first effort to establish an Episcopal Mission in Chester was made by the Rev. William Van Horn, an aged Missionary, from December 1, 1881 to June 1882. The work lapsed at this good man's death.

In 1885 the Rev. William E. Maison, Rector of St. James Church of Goshen, met with about 15 Chester inhabitants, who had been confirmed, and held services at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Board. The services were continued there until March 17, when they were moved to the more spacious home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel W. Wilkin. On June 2, 1895, the mission moved to the Knights of Pythias room where it functioned until the Church was built.

Rev. William E. Mason having accepted a call to a Church in Utah in October, 1895, Rev. George C. Betts, the new Rector of Goshen, took charge of the Chester Mission.

In October, 1897, Rev. J. Holmes McGuinness became Priest in Charge, was later made Rector of the Parish and held office until January 1, 1946, when he resigned.

During Dr. McGuinness's Pastorate, the Church grew to the number of sixty Communicants. The present Church building was dedicated August 6, 1898. On the building committee were: Rev. George C. Betts, Joseph Board, Samuel Wilkin and Roswell W. Chamberlain. The first Vestry consisted of Samuel Wilkin and Roswell Chamberlain, Wardens, and William F. Dupuy, Ezra T. Jackson, James A. Parkin, Vestrymen. The Vestry elected R. W. Chamberlain, Clerk, and Emily D. Chamberlain, Treasurer.

Following the resignation of Dr. McGuinness in 1946, Bishop Manning appointed the Rev. Samuel P. Holiday to be Priest in Charge, and later as Rector.

The present Vestry of the Church: Wallace M. Hassell, honorary Warden; Edwin D. Chamberlain and George Hawkins, Wardens; Fred Wilkin, Leander Keeney and Frank C. Helme, Vestrymen.

M. E. Church of Chester and Sugar Loaf

Sugar Loaf Church is said to be the mother of all the Methodist Churches in this vicinity. It began to function in 1804 in the home of John Conklin. In 1809, a subscription was started for the building of the first Church. The seats were of rough boards, and it took many years before the building was completed.

In 1832, the parsonage was built, the second in the New Windsor circuit, which was divided when the Sugar Loaf Circuit was formed, in 1837. It included Sugar Loaf, Highland Mills, Washingtonville, Florida, Edenville, Bellvale, Oxford, Little Pond, Mount Eve, Greenville, Greenwood Lake and Monroe. The two men appointed to Sugar Loaf held services in all these places at intervals. The present Church was built in 1852. In 1869 Sugar Loaf was made a station.

In 1837, Pastor Seymore Landen of Sugar Loaf organized a class in Chester, with Lawrence Foster as leader. Meetings were held in homes. In 1851 a lot was secured for the building of a Church. In 1852 seven trustees were elected: C. B. Wood, William M. Foster, Daniel Conklin, S. B. Banker, J. T. Johnson, William Masterson and B. G. McCabe. The Church was built and dedicated in 1853, Bishop E. S. Janes, preaching. Sugar Loaf was the head of a Circuit and Chester an appointment for preaching. In 1854 Chester was made a station with Rev. B. M. Genung as Pastor. A parsonage was built in 1855. The present parsonage was built in 1878.

The following Pastors have preached in the Chester and Sugar Loaf Churches since 1935:

A. H. Mather.....	1935-1937
W. E. Gebhard.....	1937-1940
John B. Glenwood.....	1940-1942
L. C. Dibble.....	1943-1947

*"The aim of all legitimate business
is service, for profit, at a risk."*

— BENJAMIN C. LEEMING

CHAPTER XI

THE CHESTER NATIONAL BANK — CHESTER N. Y. TELEPHONE
CO. — CHESTER CABLE CORPORATION — FUEL GAS CORP. —
THE FRANK J. MURRAY ABBATOIR — CAMP LA GUARDIA

The Chester National Bank

JAMES K. POLK was president of the United States, the Mexican War was in the making and the rails of the Erie Railroad had been in use but two years when on August twenty-third, 1845, a few residents of this agricultural community met together and organized a bank to provide for the financial needs of the growing hamlet.

It was the era of the tallow candle and the stagecoach in which the steam engine was as new to the populace as the rocket plane of today. There were no automobiles, tractors, radios, movies, airplanes or submarines. There were no super-highways, skyscrapers or washing machines. The bank had no typewriters, adding, bookkeeping, calculating, changemaking, photographing and recording machines; no telephones or electric lights.

The Chester National Bank has kept pace with the rapid changes of the past century. As every new aid to better bookkeeping and safer banking came along the change was welcomed and adopted by the officers and staff of the bank. The first adding machine was placed in use in 1910.

The bank was originally housed in the yellow brick building across Main Street from the present modern edifice. The contract price for construction of the first home was \$3,000 and on May first, 1846, the staff took over their building. Fifty years later the bank moved into its new building across the way with its modern burglar proof vault.

The years since 1845 have been full ones—years of hardship and pioneering effort were followed by years of expansion and prosperity. There have been five major wars and eight depressions. But through all the upheavals the Chester National Bank has continued to stand as a sound financial institution, designed to render service to a community whose future growth will be matched stride for stride by its bank.

PRESIDENTS OF CHESTER NATIONAL BANK

James Wheeler, Warwick.....	1845-1851
Edward R. Welling, Warwick.....	1851-1855
Jesse Bull, Monroe.....	1855
James Burt, Warwick.....	1855-1881
John T. Johnson, Chester.....	1881-1897
Joseph Durland.....	1897-1899
Jonas D. Millspaugh.....	1899-1900
Hiram Tuthill, Chester.....	1900-1920
B. C. Durland, Chester.....	1921-1926
T. F. Lawrence, Chester.....	1927-1943
Alfred R. Conklin, Chester.....	1943-

First Cashier: Alex Wright, Goshen, N. Y., 1845

FIRST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alsop V. Aspen, Jesse Bull, James Burt, Jr., Gabriel Coleman, David Hynard, Henry W. Owen, Gabriel Seely, Jonas Seely, Peter Townsend, Jr., Francis Tuthill, James Wheeler, James B. Wheeler, John R. Wilson, Jesse Wood, Alex Wright

PRESENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William H. Board, Alfred R. Conklin, Harlo J. Fiske, Mark K. Laroe, Theodore F. Lawrence, Lawrence Stage and Louis Van Rompaye

STAFF

Theodore F. Lawrence, *Chairman of Board*
 Alfred R. Conklin, *President*
 Walter A. Warner, *Executive Vice-President*
 Lawrence Stage, *Vice-President*
 Mrs. Lily B. Knapp, *Cashier*
 H. Ferd House, *Assistant Cashier*
 E. Coleman Writer, *Bookkeeper*
 Kathleen Decker, *Bookkeeper*
 James Sturr, *Bookkeeper*

In the State of New York, at the close of business on December 31, 1946, published in response to call made by comptroller of the currency, under Section 5211, U. S. Revised Statutes:

ASSETS

Cash balances with other banks, including reserve balance, and cash items in process of collection.....	\$ 415,755.22
United States Government obligations, direct and guaranteed.....	936,700.00
Obligations of States and political subdivisions.....	9,500.00
Other bonds, notes and debentures.....	74,157.50
Corporate stocks (including \$6,050.00 stock of Federal Reserve Bank)	6,050.00
Loans and discounts (including no overdrafts).....	668,172.74
Bank premises owned, \$9,500; furniture and fixtures, \$2,049.85.....	11,549.85
Other assets.....	222.05
Total Assets	<u>\$2,122,107.36</u>

LIABILITIES

Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations....	\$1,058,281.94
Time deposits of individuals, partnerships and corporations.....	650,106.71
Deposits of United States Government (including postal savings)	20,439.27
Deposits of States and political subdivisions.....	81,943.79
Other deposits (certified and cashier's checks, etc.).....	10,282.90
Total Deposits	<u>\$1,821,054.61</u>
Other liabilities.....	1,508.58
Total Liabilities.....	<u>\$1,822,563.19</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Capital Stock:	
Common stock, total par \$100,400.....	\$ 100,400.00
Surplus	100,400.00
Undivided profits.....	83,744.17
Reserves (and retirement account for preferred stock).....	15,000.00
Total Capital Accounts.....	<u>\$ 299,544.17</u>
Total Liabilities and Capital Accounts.....	<u>\$2,122,107.36</u>

MEMORANDUM

Assets pledged or assigned to secure liabilities and for other purposes	\$ 145,000.00
---	---------------

Chester N. Y. Telephone Co.

A telephone experiment was started in Chester in the late 1890s. Young L. W. C. Tuthill, whose father ran a general store where Murray Bros. later managed a market, thought a phone in the store would help business. He purchased a small switchboard and other necessary equipment and ran a wire to his home. The neighbors thought it was a wonderful thing to have, and Tuthill accommodated them also.

Before long his switchboard buzzed with 18 subscribers. It was all good fun, but he evidently did not think much of it as a business. There was an opening for a good position; the one-man telephone company sold his outfit to the Highland Telephone Company and took the job.

The few subscribers, left without telephone service, gathered on February 9, 1900, to discuss the possibilities of obtaining telephone facilities. Present, among others, were: George M. Roe, R. W. Chamberlain, William Osborn, Frank Durland, Charles D. Courter, F. L. Conklin, T. F. Lawrence, Joseph Board and E. D. Chamberlain. They organized as "The Chester Mutual Telephone Association of Chester, N. Y." Joseph Board was elected President, T. F. Lawrence, Vice-President, E. D. Chamberlain, Secretary and George M. Roe, Treasurer.

Membership was open to any Chester resident who paid in \$8 annual dues with the stipulation that he purchase his own phone, take care of all repairs, etc. Practically every business man and some private home owners immediately joined. The Company put up shop in the Masten building, where the Feldners are now. It expanded its limited local phone service until 1901, when it established connections with the Hudson Telephone Company in Goshen, thereby acquiring facilities for long distance calls. This contact marked the beginning of a successful career for the Chester Mutual Company.

In 1904, the membership voted for the dissolution of the Mutual Company. That done, a stock company was organized—The Chester N. Y. Telephone Company. Officers elected were: George M. Roe, President; T. F. Lawrence, Vice-President; Joseph Board, Secretary; Fred Murray, Treasurer. 1,712 shares were subscribed by some forty odd stockholders.

Expansion continued as wires were extended into Sugar Loaf, Greycourt and Craigsville. In 1910, 155 phones were in use. Five years later 185 phones were in service. In 1914, Mrs. Joseph Board's brick building on Main Street was purchased, and the equipment moved there.

The following were elected to office in 1946: W. Sanford Durland, President and Manager; T. F. Lawrence, Vice-

President; V. M. Terwilliger, Treasurer; Mildred D. Helms, Secretary. Phones in operation, as of spring 1947, 489.

Chester Cable Corporation

The Chester Cable Corporation is engaged in the manufacture of electrical wires and cables. These wires are generally used by radio manufacturers, instrument manufacturers, electrical contractors for the wiring of homes, etc. The company is a pioneer in the manufacturing of plastic insulated wires. There are approximately 200 manufacturers of wire in the United States at the present time. These 200 companies produce a volume slightly under one billion dollars a year.

The manufacture of wire is a delicate operation and must be carried out under the strictest standards in order to obtain a uniform and satisfactory product. Since most of the end uses are hazardous but yet electrical and essential to our present civilization, it is necessary to constantly check the wire as it is produced. As a result, the company has an elaborate laboratory and testing equipment. The manufacture of wire is highly mechanized and the Chester plant has a large number of specialized machines.

Fuel Gas Corporation

The Fuel Gas Corporation, a wholesale distributing concern, established in 1941, is located in East Chester, across the L. & H. R.R. freight station. It operates six trucks, two tank trucks, four tank cars, serving 25,000 consumers in a hundred mile area. It employs twelve men.

The Frank J. Murray Abattoir

In the latter part of the nineteenth century, farmer Frank J. Murray, built a small house on his farm, in which he slaughtered calves he bought from neighboring farmers. Frank J. Murray, Jr. travelled daily to New York to sell them. In 1912, Murray, Jr. and Carl Koelsch of New York formed the Frank J. Murray Co. They extended their plant and were now turning the animal waste into profitable fertilizer. Later they changed their machinery for the pro-

duction of meat scrap, a chicken feed. Several years later Koelsch sold his share to Robert C. Young.

Early in the 1930's the plant was handling 300 to 350 calves daily, and employed about twenty men. In 1943 Murray and Young sold their holdings to Merlis, Hermann and Romanoff, all of New York City. The plant was then greatly expanded, and carloads of cattle were brought in from all the beef regions of the country, slaughtered and shipped to the New York market.

In 1945, the owners, with Max Dennerstein of New York, formed the Chester Rendering Corporation. A fleet of trucks gathered waste material from butchers and boarding houses in Orange and Sullivan Counties, for the manufacture of grease and meat scrap.

In 1946, a New York syndicate leased the plant and opened up a retail meat market in the old garage on Route 17. The market kept company with the O.P.A. and when the latter departed it took the former along. The present Frank J. Murray Co. is leased to the Orange County Packing Co., Inc.

Camp LaGuardia

Camp LaGuardia, on the hill east of Chester Village, overlooking the Greycourt meadows, is owned by the City of New York. First under the supervision of the Department of Correction, it later passed on to the Welfare Department as one of Mayor LaGuardia's pet reform projects. When the Little Flower's term in office expired, it was transferred back to the Department of Correction. Its somewhat checkered career is of lesser interest than the personages who inhabited it in the early settlement days.

The right end of the brick building was erected in 1744 by Judge Elihu Marvin, who lived there with his wife, Abigail Yelverton, daughter of the owner of the Yelverton Inn. Elihu Marvin was the son of Matthew Marvin who had settled in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1635. He and his son Seth were active participants in the War of the Revolution.

In 1818, Julianna Marvin married Nathan White Helme. They lived there for a time. Shortly before the revolution, an addition was built with bricks made on the grounds.

Brick buildings were then a curiosity, and it attracted wide attention. The house is at present occupied by Mr. E. M. Rogell, Superintendent of the Camp and Mrs. Rogell. It has been quite modernized in a setting of flower beds and shrubs. Miss Dorothy Helme and Frank Helme of Chester and Miss Caroline Gaunt of Monroe are descendants of the original owners. The original deed of the Camp LaGuardia house is now in the possession of Frank Helme of this town.

The "Camp" was purchased in 1917, served as a women's prison until 1933. The Department of Welfare of the City of New York took over in 1935. A cannery was established. Thousands of cans of vegetables and jellies were shipped to New York's various hospitals and other institutions. At present the Camp is maintained by some one hundred employees, awaiting further orders.

"My Name is Legion; for we are many."

— NEW TESTAMENT: MARK V, 9

CHAPTER XII

TOWN OF CHESTER RESIDENTS

Ackerman, A. L.	Bly, Harvey
Ackerman, Andrew L.	Board, Clarence
Ackerman, Bernard	Bona, Charles
Adams, Annie S.	Boongaayer, Henrietta
Adams, Frank	Boyd, Harold
Alex, Joseph	Boyle, Anna G.
Allsup, Frederick James	Bradner, Charles
Allsup, Rev. Herbert J.	Brinberg, Joseph
Amentracto, George	Brooks, Clarence
Ames, Nellie R.	Brown, Clarence
Anderson, James	Brown, Orrin F.
Applebaum, Joseph	Brush, Moses L.
Arkel, Charles	Buckley, E. A.
Arraiz, Ralph	Buda, Salvatore
	Budd, Bern
Bainbridge, Kenneth	Budd, O. D.
Baird, Morrison	Budd, Thomas G.
Baird, Leonard	Budka, Louis
Baird, Percy	Budnick, Agnes
Baker, Peter F.	Bulmer, Lillian
Banker, Wakeley	Burrows, Gail M.
Barrell, Charles	Buschman, Walter
Barrell, D. M.	Butler, Asa
Bason, Marvin	Butler, Edmond
Battiato, Joseph	Butler, Roland
Battiatto, O'Rizzio	
Behrens, Freda	Cameron, Thomas
Beiling, J. A.	Cardillo, Francis
Beiswenger, William	Cardillo, John
Bell, David	Cardillo, Leo
Benjamin, Emily	Carman, Charles
Bifera, Placido	Carpenter, Russell
Biggert, Antone	Carrol, Agnes
Biondi, Mary	Casey, Charles Edward
Bliven, Harry	Cassanite, Rosario
Bliven, Harry B.	Cassidy, Margaret

Castelli, Anthony
Cavallero, Frieda
Cavallero, James
Cavallero, John
Chain, Helen
Chamberlain, E. D.
Chamberlain, Joseph
Churchill, Harry
Clarke, Fred
Coles, Roy B.
Conklin, Alfred
Conklin, Hattie
Conklin, Howard T.
Conklin, Joseph
Conklin, Walter J.
Conklin, William D.
Conklin, William Roe
Connors, Thomas
Conservo, Sam
Contorino, John
Contorino, Morris
Contorino, Rosario
Corcoran, Rev. Francis
Cordonnier, Ernest A.
Cottrell, Louise C.
Courley, George
Craig, Rudolph
Cramp, Walter M.
Creegan, Mrs. James
Cullen, Mary
Cullen, Thomas
Cullen, Morris B.
Cullen, Richard
Cullen, Roy
Cullen, Thomas, Jr.
Cushman, Willis
Custard, Cecilia
Custard, Miles

Daly, John
D'Amico, Rosario
Danner, Gertrude
Daugher, Richard
Davis, Albert
Davis, Harry B.
Davis, Leila B.
Davis, Lillian S.
Davis, Dr. Walter W.

Decker, Arthur
Decker, Ezra
Decker, Mabel
Decker, Raymond
Degan, Edward
Degan, Eugene
Degan, George
Degan, Gerard
Degan, John
DeGroat, John
DeGroat, Mrs. Peter
Dell, Chester
Dell, Jean
Demerest, Isabelle
Demerest, James
Dennerstein, Max
Denon, Elizabeth
Denon, LeRoy
Deremer, L. J.
De Schauensee, Anna Marie
Dibble, L. C.
Dibble, Rose
Dibello, Rosie
Diffily, John
Di Palma, Michela
Dolson, Clinton H.
Dolson, John S.
Doty, C. R.
Douglas, Walter
Duda, John
Dunitz, Jesse
Dunning, Mary
Durland, Joseph
Durland, Marion
Durland, Ralph Y.
Durland, W. Sanford
Durland, William P.
Durma, William

Earl, Fred. P.
Earl, Robert
Edwards, Frank
Edwards, George
Edwards, Harry
Edwards, Joseph W.
Eidenbeck, Charles
Eitel, Charles
Elston, William H.

Fabrigas, Joseph
Feldner, Fred
Feldner, H. A.
Fellner, John E.
Ferlito, Maria
Fish, George F.
Fiske, Harlo
Fitzgerald, Harriet
Fitzgerald, Ruby M.
Flynn, John
Fowler, Gilbert
Fratto, John
Fratto, Louis
Fredericks, Harry
Frustacci, Salvatore
Frustacci, Sarah

Galloway, Frank
Gardner, Silas H.
Garguilo, Audrey
Garguilo, Joseph
Gaunt, Caroline
Gerner, Dr. Morris I.
Gettler, John
Glorie, Cornelius
Glynn, Dr. Frank
Graber, Matilda E.
Grassalino, Albert
Grassalino, Rose
Grasselena, Charles
Grasso, Frank
Gratz, Agnes
Gratz, Herman
Greco, Joseph
Green, Arthur
Green, Edward
Green, Emma B.
Green, Emmet W.
Green, F. D.
Green, Frank S.
Green, Harry L.
Green, Hudson B.
Green, Kenneth
Greenburgh, Saul
Greenwood, Leslie
Grillo, Frank
Grillo, James

Hadley, Jesse F.
Haley, Nicholas
Hall, William H.
Hamill, Mathilda
Hann, Gussie
Harter, Michael
Hassell, Wallace M.
Hawkins, Conger
Hawkins, George C.
Heller, Harry
Helme, Beatrice
Helme, Dorothy A.
Helme, Frank C.
Helme, Joseph W.
Hemmingway, Ralph A.
Hendrickson, Robert
Henry, James
Herrlein, John A.
Hickernell, Charles
Holbert, Jesse
Holbert, Louise A.
Holbert, O. C.
Hollenbeck, A. W.
Holliday, Rev. Samuel
Hoskins, Charles
House, H. Ferd.
House, Kenneth
Howard, Helen C.
Howard, Roy
Huggar, G.
Hughes, Joseph
Hulse, Howard
Hulse, Robert
Hunter, Charles
Hunter, C. Seely
Hunter, Elmer
Hunter, Margaret
Hunter, W. Lincoln
Hyatt, Bertram
Hyatt, Edgar
Hyatt, Harry

Jackman, Julius
Jackman, Kenneth
Jacobs, Arlington C.
Japha, Robert K.
Jennsen, Tusch Hans
Johnson, Charles F.

Johnson, Josephine
Jones, Alice R.
Jufe, J. Edward

Kahn, Richard
Kakargo, Jacob
Keagy, Thomas
Kearin, John
Keeney, Grace
Keeney, James
Keeney, Leander
Keeney, Myrtle D.
Keeney, Zella G.
Kehh, Eleanor P.
Kennedy, Francis
Kerner, Alice W.
Kerner, A. Mildred
King, George O.
Kipp, Emma
Klein, Charles
Knapp, Frank
Knapp, Louis
Kritzler, Carl
Kropp, Frank
Kropp, John O.
Krzynowek, Waller

La Bar, Harry J.
La Forge, Charles
La Forge, Edward
Lang, William
Langendorf, F. J.
Laroe, Clifford
Laroe, Mark
Laroe, Mark K.
Laroe, Seeger
Laroe, Stewart
La Rue, William H.
Lawrence, Sadie
Lawrence, Theodore F.
Lawrence, William
Levy, Samuel
Lewis, G. S.
Lewis, George W.
Licciardillo, Leo
Licciardi, Marie
Links, Wanda
Lippert, John

Lipsey, Nellie
Littell, Alfred K.
Littell, Harriet
Littell, Harry M.
Littell, Marjorie
Littell, Ruth Eleanor
Long, Joseph
Lord, A. B.
Lorgan, Joseph
Ludlum, Russell
Lupensky, Felix
Lupinski, Chester
Lupinsky, Stanley
Lutjens, Henry
Lutjens, John
Lutjens, John, Jr.

Mabee, Walter
Magie, E. Ray
Magnan, Rev. T. W. B.
Maiorana, Benny
Maiorana, Bernice
Maiorana, Pauline
Malone, Sielo
Mangano, Alfia
Mangano, Alfred
Mapes, Frank
Mapes, George
Mapes, Helen
Mapes, Jack
Mapes, John C.
Mapes, Thaddeus
Masfield, Lillian
Mason, Dorothy
Matthews, Daniel
McBride, Edward
McBride, William
McCarthy, Ella
McCarthy, Isabelle
McCarthy, Mrs. John
McCarthy, Timothy
McCormick, Mary
McCormick, Richard
McCoy, Frank
McMahon, Mrs. J. Thomas
McMunn, Charles
McMunn, Edward
McMunn, Jane

McMunn, Lydia
 McNeil, John S.
 Meany, Alice B.
 Meilard, Robert (Maillard)
 Miller, Betty
 Miller, Clifford W.
 Miller, Emory
 Miller, Frederick
 Miller, Jack
 Miller, Jesse C.
 Miller, Mildred
 Miller, Raymond
 Miller, Richard K.
 Miller, Ross
 Miller, William
 Minneman, William
 Moeller, Helen G.
 Moffatt, Alan
 Montanya, Mailan A.
 Monteleone, Ernest
 Moran, Matthew H.
 Moran, Nellie
 Morris, Joseph
 Mottola, Dr. Samuel J.
 Mueller, Otto
 Murray, Harry L.
 Murray, Mrs. J. E.
 Musumeci, Angelina
 Musumeci, Giovana
 Musumeci, John
 Musumeci, Sandy
 Murray, Frank J.
 Murray, Grace C.
 Murray, Harry L., Jr.
 Murray, Lillian
 Murray, Mary K.
 Murray, Robert
 Myruski, Frank

Nash, Louise S.
 Nemett, Eugene
 Nendze, Louise
 Nicotra, Leo
 Nigl, Carl
 Nizolek, Walter
 Nowacki, Mary
 Nozkowski, Thomas

Nozkowski, Wallace
 Nucifora, Rosario
 Nueifora, Alfred
 Nueifora, Jeanette

O'Brien, Mary
 O'Leary, James
 Olmateod, Florence
 Olree, Jesse
 Osborn, Mrs. Charles
 Osborn, Harvey J.
 Ottersteda, Charles
 Otterstedt, Edward
 Ottogalli, Louis

Paddock, Wilbur
 Palmer, Andrea
 Parker, Lester R.
 Passera, Dr. Alfred E.
 Patane, Sam.
 Pellew, Seely
 Pfieffer, Ehrenfried
 Philhower, Paul
 Pickara, Joseph
 Pomareo, Katherine
 Pomares, Henry
 Potane, Salvatore
 Potter, Elsie M.
 Potter, Lawson
 Porter, George
 Powers, Patrick
 Predmore, Earl
 Predmore, Joseph
 Predmore, Louis
 Previtera, Filom.
 Previtera, Frank
 Price, Frank
 Price, Michael
 Price, William
 Price, Walter
 Proctor, Mrs. Henry
 Prosser, Arthur
 Prosser, Arthur, Jr.
 Prosser, Catherine
 Prosser, Kathryn
 Prosser, Richard
 Prosser, Robert

Prusoff, A.
 Pucillo, Delafield
 Puglisi, Joseph
 Puglisi, Salvatore
 Pulverant, Mary

Ramsey, Frank
 Rapisardi, Giuseppe
 Rapisardi, Samuel
 Rapisaro, Joseph
 Reed, H. Wilson
 Reed, Helen
 Regan, Anna
 Renzetti, Al
 Rex, William
 Rhodes, David
 Ribando, Henry
 Ribando, Joseph
 Ribando, Vincenzia
 Riggs, Andrew
 Riley, Frank
 Ringen, Charles P.
 Ringen, Dietrich G.
 Ringen, Florence
 Ringen, Harold
 Roche, Edward
 Roche, Joseph
 Roe, Hamlet S.
 Roe, Henry
 Roe, Mark
 Roe, Russell Alfred
 Roe, Seely
 Roe, Thomas
 Roesch, George
 Roesch, Joseph
 Rogell, Ernest M.
 Roggia, Philip
 Romanoff, Nat.
 Romer, William
 Rudel, August
 Rumsey, Mary
 Russo, John
 Russo, Maria
 Russo, Santo J.
 Ryckoff, Sarah

Sanford, Maude P.
 Sanford, Mrs. Sidney

Sanford, William M.
 Santucci, Francis
 Santucci, Patsy
 Santucci, Profello
 Satterly, Maggie
 Savaglio, Gestano
 Savaglio, Salvatore
 Scandura, John
 Scandura, Joseph
 Schaper, Leonard
 Schank, Rollin
 Schanker, Louis
 Schipon, Nicholas
 Schober, Charles
 Schreiver, Franklin A.
 Scott, Rev. Harlan
 Scott, William
 Seely, Julia M.
 Seligman, Kurt
 Sheehan, Mary
 Sheehan, Thomas
 Shoemaker, Robert
 Showers, Mary
 Shunoski, Mrs. Anthony
 Shunoski, Felix
 Shunoski, Stella
 Siegel, Joseph
 Sigel, Hillel
 Silvestri, Angelina
 Simms, Herbert
 Simms, John
 Simon, Harry B.
 Slaughter, Phoebe
 Smith, Alex
 Smith, Ben H.
 Smith, Florence
 Smith, Hiram
 Smith, George F.
 Smith, J. D.
 Smith, Jay L.
 Smith, L. W.
 Smith, Lattimer
 Smith, Luman
 Smith, William H.
 Smythe, William
 Sorbello, V.
 Sosler, John
 Spina, Joseph

Spina, Annie
 Spina, Joseph
 Stanton, Charles
 Stevens, Curtis
 Stevens, Miles
 Stevens, Rutherford
 Stewart, Richard
 Stoll, Charles
 Storms, Floyd
 Straub, Joseph
 Sullivan, Dr. W. E.
 Sumari, Anna
 Swain, Zacharia
 Sweeney, Alice
 Swetlow, Dr. George
 Szulwach, Walter

Taft, Carrie O.
 Talmadge, Harry W.
 Taylor, Caroline B.
 Taylor, Howell
 Torrisi, Anthony
 Torrisi, Verna
 Tucker, Cornelia
 Tuthill, John B.
 Tyler, Caldwell

Utter, Helen
 Uyhelyi, Nicholas
 Uyhelyi, Sarah
 Uzenski, Rev. Stanley

Vadalla, Isadore
 Vadalla, Jennie
 Valastro, Philip
 Vander Hoff, Vincent
 Van Der Muelen, Louis
 Van Der Muelen, Perry
 Van Der Mullen, Nicholas
 Van Duzen, Robert
 Van Duzer, Willard S.
 Van Etten Elizabeth
 Van Etten, Eva
 Van Molden, Abe
 Van Orden, James

Van Rompaye, Louis
 Van Vliet, Albert
 Verbert, Charles
 Verbert, Joseph
 Vero, Salvatore
 Vero, Sam
 Vollmer, Fred

Walling, Stella
 Ward, Seely
 Warner, Walter A.
 Webb, Eleanor P.
 Weckstein, Jennie
 Weckstein, Morris
 Weisberg, Toby
 Welch, Julia
 Weller, Inez A.
 Wells, Arthur M.
 Wells, Mary A.
 Welsh, James
 White, Anna
 White, Malcolm R.
 Whitney, Dr. Ralph
 Wilkin, Albert
 Wilkin, Fred W.
 Wilkin, Melvin
 Wilson, George L.
 Winters, Charles N.
 Wolf, Erna
 Wood, Mrs. Cyrus F.
 Wood, Denna
 Writer, E. Coleman
 Wykoff, J.

Yacubowski, George
 York, Frank
 Young, Robert E.

Zagrodnick, Caroline
 Zagrodnick, Frank
 Zagrodnick, Nellie
 Zagrone, John
 Zangrillo, Louis
 Zeiss, Clement V.

CHESTER PROFESSIONALS

Dr. Thomas S. Edmondson.....	1829-1852
Dr. James C. Horton.....	1831
Dr. Sol G. Carpenter.....	1845-1899
Dr. Charles P. Smith.....	1851-1894
Dr. William C. Halsey.....	1851
Dr. C. H. Harrington.....	1871-1872
Dr. George F. Rice.....	1885-1889
Dr. Charles P. Smith.....	1892-1935
Dr. H. B. Masten.....	1894-1899
Dr. Harry P. Dawe.....	1897-1900
Dr. J. Austen Kelly.....	1900-1906
Dr. Fed. I. Savage.....	1902-1904
Dr. John R. Osborne.....	1933-1934
Dr. L. S. Tieman.....	1936-1937

PRESENT DAY PRACTITIONERS

Dr. Walter W. Davis, since 1905
 Dr. William E. Sullivan, since 1934
 Dr. Morris I. Gerner, since 1940
 Dr. Samuel J. Mottola, 1947
 Dr. F. J. Glynn, Veterinary
 Dr. S. J. Levy, Dentist
 Joseph Siegel, Pharmacist

Attorney at Law, Albert Davis

Population, Town of Chester,
 1940 Census — 2,776

CHRONOLOGY

- 1683—Orange County organized
- 1689—First County census
- 1689-1755—William Bull
- 1694-1796—Sarah Wells
- 1703—Purchase of patents from Indians
- 1706—Cromline purchased Chester tract
- 1712—Gray Court construction began
- 1714—Goshen organized
- 1716—Cromline Stone House completed
- 1718—(Ham. S. Roe) Stone house completed
- 1755—Chester named
- 1765—Yelverton Inn completed
- 1769—Pine Hill Farm settled
- 1774—Delegate to Cont. Congress chosen
- 1775—First Chester tax roll
- 1776—Chester joined Goshen Regiment
- 1777—Col. Woodhull camped at Chester
- 1782—George Washington stayed at Yelverton Inn
- 1794—First Chester Post Office
- 1798—First Chester Presbyterian Church
- 1804—M. E. Church in Sugar Loaf
- 1832—Cromline Stone House demolished
- 1841—First Erie R. R. trains
- 1841—Business section opened
- 1842—Chester Academy built
- 1842—First Chester milk shipment by R. R.
- 1845—St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 1845—Chester National Bank organized
- 1846—Town of Chester Incorporated
- 1849—Rysdyk acquired Hambletonian colt
- 1853—M. E. Church built in Chester
- 1881—St. Columba Church
- 1885—St. Paul's Episc. Church
- 1891—Chester Water Works organized
- 1892—Chester Village Incorporated
- 1900—Chester Free Library organized
- 1900—Chester Telephone Co. organized
- 1902—Chester Cemetery organized
- 1903—Chester Grange organized
- 1906—Union Free School organized
- 1914—Scouts organized
- 1923—Chester P.T.A. organized
- 1932—Chester Fire District organized
- 1934—Italian American Club organized
- 1936—Orange Blossom Post 1167 organized
- 1937—New Modern School building completed

INDEX

	PAGE		PAGE
A			
Abbatoir	107	Cemetery	92
Ackerly, Anthony	60	Chamber of Com.	7
Allison, Joseph	38	Churches	99-102
Allison, Wm.	39	Climate	49
American House	60	Early Sports	68
Aske, Benj.	15	Elgin Butter Co.	61
		Fire District	63
		Free Library	78
		Fruits	50
		Grange	85
B		Italian Population	46
Banker, Isaak	59	Incorp. Town	40
Beers, John	29	Independence War of	37
Bellfounder	69	National Bank	103
Bellvale Mount's	41	Poultry	49
Berhoff, Jacobus	51	P. T. A.	84
Bigger, John	50	Rendering Corp.	108
Black Dirt Area	43	Residents, 1900	60
Black Meadow Brook	42	Residents, 1947	110
Board, Cornelius	31	Schools	81
Board, Elizabeth	31	Scouts	89
Board, Family	31	Settlers, 1800-1875	58
Board, Joseph	62	Song	76
Board, Thompson	60	Sports	67, 83
Bodles Opera House	60	Supervisors	52
Boulton, Jno.	59	Telephone Co.	105
Blooming Grove	13, 40	Town Officers	53
Bridges, John	15	Town Population	117
Brooks, George H.	60	Uplands	46
Bryan, T. H.	60	Yells	76
Bull, John	47	Village Incorp.	62
Bull Stone House	25, 26	Village Officers	53
Bull, William	19, 22, 27, 40	Water Works	61
Burnside	43		
Burr, Aaron	17	Chronology	118
		Claudius, Smith	33, 51
C		Clinton, George	38
Camp LaGuardia	108	Clows and Everett	27
Campbell Hall	43	Conklin, John D.	51
Carman	29	Conklin, R. P.	64
Carpenter Colvill	31	Conglingtown	36
Carpenter of Goshen	29	Cook, Jeremia	58
Cheesecock Patent	14	Cooper, Elmer	30, 58
Chamberlain, E. D.	31, 59	Cooper, Joseph	51
Chester		Cooper, Stephen	59
Academy	81	Cox, Aaron	59
Am. Legion	88	Craigsville	19, 45
Baseball	73	Crevecoeur	32
Board of Education	83	Cromline Creek	43, 45
Boundaries	41	Cromline, Daniel	17, 18, 23, 28, 40
Business Section	56	Cromline Tract	19
Cable Corp.	107	Cub Scout Pack	91
		Cullen, B.	57

	PAGE		PAGE
D		H	
Demerest, James	50	Hadden, Samuel	60
Demerest, N.	50	Hallock, James	50
Diffily, John J.	56	Hambletonian Breeding	69
Denn, Christopher	18, 22, 23, 27	Hambeltonian 10	71
Denton, Daniel	31, 58	Hambletonian Orig. source	70
Denton, Michael	31, 58	Hamilton, Alexander	17
Denton, Samuel	59	Hamptonburgh	19, 26
Deutsch, Sam	46	Hazard, Ezra	59
Dobbin, Hugh	51	Hector, St. John	32, 40
Dodd, Doctor	30, 58	Hetfield, Moses	39
Drainage	45	Hinchcliff, Bros.	60
Drake, Joseph	31	Holbert, James	50
Drowned Lands	45	Holbert, John	50
Dubois, B.	51	Holbert, Major	58
Dubois, Jesse	61	Holbert, Samuel	51
Dunning, Benj.	38	Holly, Ebenezer	27
Durland family	31	Honor Roll, W. War I	97
Durland, Hill	42	Horton, Barnabas	51
Dutchy, Mrs.	60	Howell of Goshen	29
Dyer, David	51	Howland House	60
		Hunter, C. S.	30
		Hunter, Lincoln	50
E		I	
Eagles, Joseph	51	Imported Messenger	69
East Chester	55	Inn, Greycourt	35
Elgin Butter factory	61	Inn, Yelverton	35
Ensign, John	29	Irish settlers	45
Erie Railroad	47, 56	Iseman, C. F.	60
Everett & Clows	27	Italian American Club	91
		Italian settlers	45
F		J	
Fanny	32	Jackson, John	39
Fellowes Cap.	33	Jones, Sarah	27
First Presb. Church	99	Johnson, C. E.	59
First Settlers	48	Juliand, C.	60
Florida	41, 45		
Ft. Clinton	38	K	
Fort Hill	36	Kent, Charles	71
Ft. Montgomery	38	Kerner, Charles	60
Fredericks, G. W.	60	Ketchum, Horace	50
Fuel Gas Corp.	107	Kings Highway	23, 38
		King, John	47, 51
G		King William III	13
Gates, Major	38	Knapp, Kaleb	51
Glenmere Lake	41, 42, 43	Knapp, Jesse	51
Goosepond Mtn.	42	Knapp family	31
Goshen	19, 40	Knapp, Nathaniel	50
Goshen Butter	47		
Goshen Early Settlers	27	L	
Goshen Regiment	38, 39	L & H Railroad	49, 56
Graham, Ed.	60	Laroe, Crinis	51
Gratz, Herman	60	Laroe, Mark	46, 50
Gregory, Philip	47	LaGuardia Camp	108
Green, John	27	Lawrence, W. H.	59
Greycourt Meadows	43	Lincolndale	21, 43
Greycourt Station	54	Littell, Edward G.	56
Grossett, David	59		

	PAGE		PAGE
M		Roe, Russell	37
M. E. Church	102	Roe, William	59
Mambrino	70	Rockland County	13
Mapes, Julius	59	Rokeby	15, 17
Mombasha Lake	41	Rose, Silas	51
Masterson, E.	60	Rumsey, David	51
Masten	60	Rysdyk, William H.	67
Matthews, Peter	15		
Matthews, Vinc	27	S	
McGrath, Wm.	60	Salem	56
McCormick, Richard	46	Satterly Town	36
Milk production	47	School Principals	83
Milk transportation	48	Sears, Joseph	27
Miller, Guy	60	Seely, Albert	59
Miller, James	38	Seely's Creek	43
Minisink	14, 38	Seely, Jonas	58, 69
Moffatt, Hez.	59	Seely, James	58
Moodna	43	Seely, Townsend	58
Monroe	14, 40	Selleck, Thomas	47
Murray, J. S.	59	Sanford, G. W.	56
Murray, Frank J.	107	Settlers, Polish	45
		Settlers, Italian	45
N		Shawangunk Mts.	13
New Windsor	20	Snedeker, Chris.	18, 19
		Somerville	36
O		Springstead, John	30, 58
Odell, Mrs.	60	St. Columbia Church	100
Onion Industry	46	St. John Hector	32, 40
Orange Blossom Post	88	Sterling Lake	31
Orange County		St. Paul's Episc. Church	101
Area	13	Stevens, Elijah	51
Brief History	13	Stevens, David	51
First Census	14	Sugar Loaf	50
Indians	15		
Population	14	T	
Towns In	13	Taxpayers 1776	36
Orange Prince	13	Taxpayers 1825	58
Otter Kill	21, 43	Ten Eyk	15, 17
		Townsend, Peter	30
P		Travis family	59
Parshall, Ensign	38	Tusten, Benj.	39
Patents	14	Tuthill, J. B.	60
Pine Hill Farm	32		
Polish settlers	45	V	
Population, Town of Chester	117	Vail, Gil S.	38
Predmore, Earl	50	Vail, Wm.	31
Proctor, John	56	Van Rompaye, Louis	48
		Veterans World War I	97
R		Veterans World War II	95
Reed Estate	60	Vollmer, Fred	61
Redner, A.	61		
Redner, Jno.	61	W	
Rhodes, Lewis	51	Walton Hose Co.	63
Roe, Hamlet S.	26	Walton Lake	61, 62
Roe, James	58	Warwick	13, 40
Roe, J. S.	38	Washington, George	39
Roe, Nathaniel	30, 37, 59	Washington Hotel	61

AUTOGRAPHS

AUTOGRAPHS

AUTOGRAPHS

AUTOGRAPHS



gtr

